WHAT IS CONTAMINATION?

Contamination happens when:

• The WRONG ITEMS are placed in the recycling bin; OR

• The RIGHT ITEMS are not prepared correctly.

WRONG!

• ALL PLASTIC BAGS – Take to a grocery store for recycling or donate to Harvest Hope Food Bank for reuse.

• FOODS AND LIQUIDS

• RECYCLING’S DIRTY DOZEN – Please visit www.scdhec.gov/recyclerightsc to learn more.

RIGHT!

• ACCEPTABLE RECYCLABLES – Please visit www.scdhec.gov/recycleheresc to find out which recyclables are accepted in your community.

• CLEAN AND DRY – Empty and rinse bottles and cans. Keep newspaper, cardboard and other papers dry.
PREVENT CONTAMINATION

BE CART SMART!

Have you ever placed items in the recycling bin without being certain that they can be recycled? DON'T DO IT!

PROBLEM ITEMS INCLUDE:

• Take-out food containers
• Food wrappers (e.g., nuts, granola, chip bags)
• Sharps (e.g., needles, syringes)
• Plastic bags
• Tanglers (e.g., hoses, cords, string lights)
• Shredded paper
• Drinking glasses
• Ceramics

REDUCE SINGLE USE!

Here are some ways to eliminate wasteful single-use products.

- Bottled Water
  TRY REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES.

- Paper Coffee Cups
  TRY REUSABLE COFFEE MUGS.

- Plastic & Paper Bags
  TRY REUSABLE BAGS & TOTES.

- Styrofoam Containers
  TRY STURDY FOOD CONTAINERS.

- Plastic Utensils & Paper Napkins
  TRY DURABLE UTENSILS & CLOTH NAPKINS.