



Lakeshore Recycling Systems - Recycling Best Practices

Many of us have been recycling for years, but are we using "best practices" in our recycling habits? The recycling trade has been adversely affected over the past couple years due to companies using outdated processing equipment, general market trends and the turn in foreign markets. Although these are trends largely outside of our control, there is an important change we can make in our recycling habits to make a difference. Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) shares the following:

Contamination has a huge negative impact on recycling rates.

Contaminated recyclables often stems from good intentions gone wrong. Examples? Consumers putting plastic bags or soiled food containers in an otherwise good batch of recyclable material. Other forms of more benign, but still harmful contamination are textiles (clothing, carpet) and rigid plastics (children's toys, milk crates, etc). Although the latter items may not corrupt other clean recyclables, they still create issues, including efficiently processing problems.

The good news: LRS continues to be vigilant when it comes to recycling as much material as possible. Virtually all material that it collects from the Village of La Grange Park is taken to its nearby Forest View Facility, which remains one of the most technically sophisticated and newer recycling facilities in the industry. However, residents and end-users can still aid in the process by following these **best practice rules**:

1. Plastics bags should never be placed in your recycling cart. The makeup of the bags is not consistent with what is considered 'single-stream' recyclable, and their flimsy nature can wreak havoc - even on state-of-the-art equipment. Instead, collect those bags in surplus, then take them to your local grocer for proper recycling.
2. Discarded food items should not be placed in your recycling cart. This includes jars and packaging that have not been adequately rinsed. Pizza boxes should only be placed in recycling carts if residual grease and cheese are absolutely minimal.
3. Keep lids and caps on jars and bottles. Both items are as recyclable as the jars and bottles they are part of, and it will help our equipment capture the material.
4. Remember the rule of numbers: #'s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 are good to go, however, #6's (plastic cups, cutlery) should not be placed in recycling carts.