

# Is Your Recycling Unrecyclable?



## Are you unintentionally preventing your recycling from being recycled?

You could be if you are tying your recyclables into plastic bags (such as grocery bags or blue bags) before placing them in your recycling or nesting different types of containers together (e.g. a metal can inside of a plastic tub). When materials arrive at the recycling sorting facility in these ways, they can't be recycled.

## All tied up and nowhere to go

Frequently, the recycling facility receives materials that have been sorted and neatly tied into plastic bags. While this might seem like it is helpful, unfortunately, the bags and contents need to be thrown away. For safety reasons, sorting staff cannot open the bags once they reach the recycling facility. This is because on more than one occasion, a recycling facility

worker has opened a bag that was thought to be filled with recyclables only to be injured by something hidden inside (e.g. needles and sharps).

The only exception to this is shredded paper. Shredded paper should be tied in a clear bag and included with your other curbside recycling. Containment of shredded paper is important as loose shredded paper can blow away and become litter, or get mixed with container recycling.

Anything else that has been tied into a plastic bag—even if facility workers can see into it—will be discarded.

## Unnecessary nests

Another source of unrecyclable recyclables is nested materials. While stacking containers that held the same contents is okay, metal and plastic containers stacked together are difficult to separate. Similarly, papers stashed inside a cereal or shoe box can't be separated. Also problematic is shoving any type of materials into a large plastic container. Materials arriving at the recycling facility in any of these ways cannot be recycled and will be sent to disposal.

## Loose-y goose-y

Instead of tying recycling in a plastic bag or mixing stacks of containers, throwing materials loose into the recycling bin is the best way to ensure that they'll be recycled. For a list of what to Recycle in the Central Okanagan visit [www.regionaldistrict.com/recyclemore](http://www.regionaldistrict.com/recyclemore) or download the free MyWaste app on your smart phone.

