

Be Bright, Recycle Right!

WHAT NOT TO RECYCLE THE #1 CONTAMINANT

TOP 10 CONTAMINANTS

1. Plastic Bags
2. Needles/Biohazardous Waste
3. Wire, hose, cords, rope & chains
4. Propane Tanks
5. Yard Waste/Wood
6. Motor Oil Containers
7. Electronics
8. Food Waste
9. Clothing/Shoes
10. Mercury Containing Objects



Landfill litter control fence
Photo by Mark Hooyer – Trans-Jordan

PLASTIC BAG CONTAMINATION

Plastic bags are the #1 source of recycling contamination. Bags wreak havoc on the automated equipment at Utah recycling facilities by wrapping around spinning parts. Every day, machinery has to be shut down and plastic bags cut away.

As recycling is sorted at our local materials recovery facility, plastic bags are removed from the recycling stream and sent to the landfill as trash. Plastic bag litter is so problematic that many landfills install large, curved “Jurassic Park” fences to catch airborne bags. Last year, Trans-Jordan landfill spent more than \$40,000 on litter control.

“Every day, machinery has to be shut down and plastic bags cut away.”

Here in Utah plastic bags are not accepted in curbside recycling. Do NOT bag recycling before bringing it out to the bin or place any types of plastic bags (grocery bags, sandwich bags, bread bags, newspaper bags, etc.) in your recycling. Even if it has a recycle symbol or claims to be recyclable, it is not accepted in curbside recycling. Plastic bags can be recycled at participating grocery stores. Look for the recycling container at the front entrance. Reusing is always better than recycling, so please remember to bring reusable bags to the store.

Your questions, comments, and ideas are always welcome! Please contact education@transjordan.org and they may be mentioned in our article or FAQ page. Visit transjordan.org/recycle for more recycling information.

Q: Does green waste like yard clippings and wood go in the curbside recycling bin?

A: No! Please do not put green waste in curbside recycling. Yard trimmings are considered green waste and can be dropped off at the landfill for a small fee for residents who do not have a third green waste curbside bin. Green waste is transformed into woodchips and compost that benefits parks and residents throughout the valley.



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