

THE RECYCLING BIN SINS OF 40 HOMEWOOD

(or what **not** to put in the blue bins)

1. **Materials should be put into the blue recycling bins loose, not in bags.**
There are two exceptions: shredded paper may be put in a clear plastic bag and tied closed; retail and grocery plastic shopping bags may be collected, placed into one bag and the handles tied together. No plastic, twine or drawstring handles.
2. **Unflattened cardboard boxes.** These quickly lead to overflowing blue bins. Oftentimes these boxes contain packaging inside which should be removed. Styrofoam can stay in the blue bin, but other packaging such as plastic bags, plastic wraps, screws, twist ties and liners should be sorted into your garbage.
3. **Residues.** Food and beverage containers should be rinsed before recycling. Solid food waste can be put into the organic waste pail before recycling the rinsed container. Oily food containers can be wiped out with a paper towel (remember to throw the paper towel into your organic waste pail!)
4. **Non-recyclable plastic bags.** Bags used when purchasing produce, milk bags (inner and outer), bread bags, dry cleaning bags, plastic coated pet food bags are all examples of the many types we accumulate but cannot recycle. Note: bread bags and plastic grocery bags may be used to wrap your compostables and placed in the green bin.
5. **Plastic overwrap.** This material can be found as packaging for toilet paper, pop etc.. Sandwich bags and Saran-type wraps are also not recyclable.
6. **Plastic blister packs**
7. **Paper towels, Kleenex, paper napkins.** Note: these items go into your organic waste pail for the green bin. If they have been soiled with chemicals like Pledge or Windex, for example, then toss into the garbage.
8. **Multi-material items.** A common example of this is paper flyers in a plastic bag. The flyers go into the blue bin, the plastic bag into the garbage. Another example is cardboard fruit baskets with plastic handles. The plastic handles are to be removed and put into the garbage, the cardboard box into the blue bin.
9. **Snack food bags** such as potato chips bags
10. **All coat hangers** regardless of what material they are made of
11. **Ceramic and clay** materials such as mugs, plates, plant pots etc.
12. **Plastic flower pots and planters.**
13. **Plastic windows on boxes.** (on Kleenex boxes, for example.) Remove and discard the plastic window-- the box is now good to go into the blue bin!