



# Composting Basics

**THESE RULES ARE STANDARD TO ALL CITIES AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMPANIES, REMEMBER THE BASICS FOR SUCCESS!**

## **Anything you can eat.**

**All food scraps and waste can be composted. Anything you can eat or at one point could have eaten in addition to items like meat bones, egg shells, and the outside of an onion.**

## **Shredded and food soiled paper.**

**Shredded paper and any paper with food on it can be composted. This included pizza boxes, to go containers, and greasy paper towels. If the paper has a plastic inside coating however, the item is trash.**

## **Compostable Packaging.**

**Compostable packaging with this logo:**  **from the Compost Manufacturing Alliance are certified compostable at Cedar Grove Composting facilities in King County.**

## **Yard waste.**

**All yard waste and clippings are compostable in your curbside bin.**

**Cedar Grove is the composting facility for most of King County. If you have additional questions, contact Cedar Grove or [info@trashtalkprojectwa.com](mailto:info@trashtalkprojectwa.com).**



# Recycling Basics

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## Empty, Clean, and Dry.

**Recycling must be empty, clean, and dry in order to prevent other materials from being contaminated. Rinse and dry before placing items in recycling bin.**

## Paper, Cardboard, Glass.

**These three categories can always be recycled if clean and dry. Broken glass needs to be thrown in the trash and disposed of safely in order to not hurt workers. Shredded paper is too small to pass through the sorting machines so it needs to be composted instead. Wet cardboard can be composted but not recycled. Small amounts of tape on cardboard boxes are okay.**

## Metal and Plastic.

**Metal cans and containers can be recycled if clean and dry. Clean tin foil can also be recycled if larger than 3 inches. Hard plastic like  &  can be recycled. Flimsy plastic, chip bags, styrofoam, cellophane, and plastic film are NOT curbside recyclable. Plastic film and grocery bags can often be recycled at other collection centers. See our handout on Plastic Identification Codes for more information: <https://trashtalkprojectwa.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Plastic-Identification-Codes-.pdf>**

## Larger than 3 inches

**Items must be larger than 3 inches in order to pass through sorting machines. Small items will clog the machine and cost a lot of time and money to remove. Make the process go smoother by sorting correctly before these items get to the sorting centers.**

## Do Not Bag Recycling.

**Plastic trash bags are not recyclable. These flimsy bags clog up the sorting machines and cause many issues. Place your recyclables in the bin or dumpster loose.**



# Trash Basics

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## **When in doubt, throw it out.**

Incorrectly sorted waste contaminates the recycling and compost bins. Just one contaminant could ruin the entire batch of good recycling or compost. If you are unsure where an item goes, it is best to throw it out to decrease the risk of contaminating good materials.

## **Flimsy plastic / plastic film.**

Flimsy plastic is always trash. This includes bubble wrap, chip bags, and plastic film. Some plastic film can be recycled at other facilities. Visit [bagandfilmrecycling.org](http://bagandfilmrecycling.org) to find a drop-off location near you.

## **Styrofoam.**

Styrofoam is always trash but can also be recycled at some collection centers. Visit [homeforfoam.com](http://homeforfoam.com) to find a recycling center near you.

## **Wraps and wrappers.**

Frozen food bags, chip bags, candy wrappers, produce stickers, are all trash.

## **All other garbage.**

Protective equipment, loose bottle caps, diapers, pet waste, hygiene products, broken dishes and glass, straws, plastic utensils,

**Furniture, Electronics, Batteries, and Chemicals should not be thrown in the curbside bin. Please contact your local waste management company to find out how to dispose of these materials.**