

# RECYCLING NEWS BULLETIN

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## It's Simple - No Plastic Bags!

Waste Management wants to help your business reduce recycling contamination. An impactful, straightforward solution to eliminate one of the biggest contaminants is ensuring there are no plastic bags and bagged recyclables in your recycling. Looking to go bag-free at home? It's just as easy – check out our [Get Started](#) videos to learn how to set up your household for recycling success.

**When recycling clean and dry bottles, cans, paper and cardboard, there's no need for a plastic bag.**

### Why Are Plastic Bags So Problematic?

Plastic bags become wrapped around sorting equipment, requiring all machinery to be shut down. Workers must climb into the machinery to cut plastic bags out of gears and screens. This delays the sorting of recyclables to end markets to make new products.

### It's Easier than You Think to Recycle Without Using Plastic Bags

- Work with your janitorial staff to develop processes to collect recyclables without using plastic bags or liners.
- Engage your employees and let them know why you're eliminating plastic bags – remind them that all recyclables should be clean and dry so there's no need for plastic bags.
- Make sure all containers are properly labeled – acceptable materials typically include bottles, cans, paper and cardboard. Visit [Resources for Business](#) on [wm.com/recycleright](#) to download [bin labels](#).
- Check out the [No Plastic Bags Resources](#) on [wm.com/recycleright](#) to help your business and employees recycle right every day.

### Going Bag-Free Just Makes Sense!

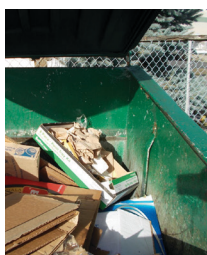
- ✓ It's the right thing for the environment.
- ✓ If you are recycling right and your recyclables are clean and dry, there's no need to use a plastic bag as a liner.
- ✓ It reduces your costs – no more money spent on plastic bags or liners.
- ✓ It's faster and more efficient for your janitorial team – no more time spent replacing bags or liners each day.
- ✓ It will help your business reduce recycling contamination.



Place clean, dry materials in recycling container.



Consolidate smaller recycling containers into a larger, liner-free container.



Dump recyclables loose into your outdoor collection bin.



Double check recycling bin to make sure it's free from contaminants; no plastic bags or liners and all recyclables are loose in the bin.



For more tools and resources to help you recycle right, visit [wm.com/recycleright](#)