



## Why are my Recyclables being left behind?

While the City's waste haulers are obligated to take everything in and around garbage bins that are properly bagged, curbside recycling is a different program that uses two different recycling techniques and has contamination requirements.

### - I am a customer of Republic Services or WM

Republic Services and WM use single stream recycling. They collect all acceptable recyclables in one bin and the sorting of materials, including contaminants, occur off site at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) located in Normal, IL. In this way, users can put everything in one bin and contents are taken and sorted later, this includes corrugated cardboard.

This does not mean that everything that is put into a recycling bin is recyclable. In fact, there are contaminants that are pulled out during sorting which are bailed together and later sent and discarded in the local landfill. To help decrease contamination and increase residential responsibility- quick curbside contamination spot checks may take place from time to time. If a recycling bin is found to be contaminated during the spot check, contents may be left behind and recycling bin tagged for contamination. Residential users will then be required to sort through recyclables and either 1) wait for their next scheduled collection or 2) take clean recyclables to waste haulers drop off location.

### - I am a customer of Lake Area Disposal & Recycling

Lake Area Disposal & Recycling use dual stream recycling. Dual stream recycling requires users to separate recyclables into subcategories at the curb and in the recycle bin. In this way, rather than collect, ship, and sort recyclable contents later and off site, Lake Area drivers sort through materials and contamination on site and at the curb. Sorting on site entails using a collection truck that has compartments for recycle materials.

\* Check with your hauler for proper curbside separation.

Due to the manufacturing process, corrugated cardboard, which is made up of three or more layers of paper with a rippled or wavy middle layer, does not get recycled with regular mixed paper products. Consequently, while corrugated cardboard is accepted at the haulers recycling drop off location, the *curbside collection* of corrugated cardboard is at the haulers discretion. Users are encouraged to check with their hauler for current curbside collection requirements. Furthermore, contamination spot checks are immediate. Any contaminants present in a recycling bin will be left behind in the bin.

**NOTE:** to limit plastic waste and possible pollution, use paper or reusable bags rather than plastic bags to sort and separate items inside recycling bin.



Find out more by visiting the Waste & Recycling webpage at [www.springfield.il.us/recycling](http://www.springfield.il.us/recycling)