

# Empty. Clean. Dry.

The new way to recycle.



Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Anyone growing up in the 1970s, '80s or '90s learned the three Rs of recycling in school. We were taught to recycle everything we could. We added recycling containers to our homes, our offices and classrooms and recycling became a part of our culture.

In the 40 years since recycling was introduced, Americans recycle nearly 87 million tons per year. That means that each of us recycles approximately 1.5 pounds per day! However, the recycling model we all grew up with is changing, and we have to change with it.

Trying to recycle unclean or unrecyclable material increases sorting time and slows down the recycling process, damages the facility's equipment and causes contaminants in the bales of clean recyclables that decreases the value of the items. When this occurs, we have to put the ENTIRE load of recyclables into our landfills due to the contamination.



Empty.



Clean.



Dry.

**EMPTY** means making sure there is no food or product residue. Make sure all of that goes into the trash or down the drain as part of the EMPTY process.

**CLEAN** means that empty recyclable containers should be rinsed. So, no mustard in the mustard containers or left over ketchup in the ketchup bottles. If you cannot get a container completely clean, it is best to put it into the trash so as not to contaminate the rest of your recycling material and the overall process.

**DRY** means letting containers dry before placing in your **All-in-One Recycling™** blue container so that the paper and cardboard does not get wet. Wet or soiled paper and cardboard cannot be recycled.

By practicing Empty. Clean. Dry. with our families, we can ensure the recycling materials leaving our homes are in fact recyclable. Together, we are caretakers of this blue planet. It is worthy of every effort we can make to protect it for our children's children.

Be sure your recyclables are empty, clean and dry before you toss them in the recycling container.

## Recyclable Items



### Paper

Office paper  
Newspaper  
Envelopes  
Junk mail  
Phone books  
Brochures  
Magazines  
Catalogs



### Cardboard

File folders  
Poster board  
Shipping boxes (folded flat)  
Frozen food boxes  
Cardboard boxes  
Milk cartons



### Plastic

Water bottles  
Take-out containers  
Soda bottles  
Detergent/containers



### Metal

Aluminum beverage cans  
Food cans  
Steel food containers



### Glass

Bottles (clear, green and brown)  
Jars

## Non-Recyclable Items

Plastic bags or plastic wrap  
Aerosol cans  
Aluminum foil  
Batteries  
Food waste

Pizza boxes  
Electronic waste  
Mirrors or ceramics  
Paint  
Pesticides

Medication  
Styrofoam  
Tissue, paper towels and napkins  
Syringes and needles



**REPUBLIC**  
SERVICES

We'll handle it from here.®