



frequently asked QUESTIONS

Can I put this in my curbside recycling container?

ITEM	CAN I PUT IT IN THE BLUE BIN?	WHY OR WHY NOT?
PLASTIC BAGS 	No, but you can bring plastic bags to your local grocery store to be recycled.	Paper bags/ film can break or get caught up in the equipment at the recycling facility causing it to stop production or break the machines.
CLAMSHELL PACKAGING <i>(e.g. Fruit and take-out containers)</i> 	No	This type of packaging is usually made with low quality plastic, which makes it very difficult to recycle.
PIZZA BOXES 	Yes, but only the parts without food or oil on it.	Organic material ruins the final recycling product. Rip off any parts with food or oil on it and recycle the clean parts.
FOOD BAGS & WRAPPERS <i>(e.g. chip bags, nutritional bar or candy wrappers)</i> 	No	There is just no market for recycling this type of material.
STYROFOAM 	No	The recycling facility that the City of Fairfax uses doesn't have the right equipment to recycle Styrofoam.
PAPER CUPS & PLATES 	No	There is a layer of wax on some paper cups & plates that contaminates the recycling process. Used paper cups & plates may be contaminated with food and/or oil.
SHREDDED PAPER 	No	The paper is too small to be detected by the machines at the recycling facility and can get stuck to other recycled items. This contaminates the process.
LIGHT BULBS  <p><i>Fluorescent Incandescent</i></p>	No	They are made from a different type of glass and contain metal parts. Compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs contain mercury. Special care must be taken with broken ones, as the fragments are toxic if ingested or inhaled. See page 6 for proper disposal.