# Frequently Asked Questions

**Can I put this in my curbside recycling container?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>CAN I PUT IT IN THE BLUE BIN?</th>
<th>WHY OR WHY NOT?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PLASTIC BAGS</strong></td>
<td>No, but you can bring plastic bags to your local grocery store to be recycled.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CLAMSHELL PACKAGING</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>This type of packaging is usually made with low quality plastic, which makes it very difficult to recycle.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>(e.g. Fruit and take-out containers)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PIZZA BOXES</strong></td>
<td>Yes, but only the parts without food or oil on it.</td>
<td>Organic material ruins the final recycling product. Rip off any parts with food or oil on it and recycle the clean parts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOOD BAGS &amp; WRAPPERS</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>There is just no market for recycling this type of material.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>(e.g. chip bags, nutritional bar or candy wrappers)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STYROFOAM</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>The recycling facility that the City of Fairfax uses doesn’t have the right equipment to recycle Styrofoam.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PAPER CUPS &amp; PLATES</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>There is a layer of wax on some paper cups &amp; plates that contaminates the recycling process. Used paper cups &amp; plates may be contaminated with food and/or oil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHREDDED PAPER</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIGHT BULBS</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Fluorescent  Incandescent*