



RECYCLE RIGHT TO KEEP
OCEANSIDE
BEAUTIFUL



INSIDE:

Learn how you can help Oceanside by using your curbside carts and properly disposing of household hazardous materials.

CONTAMINATION:

Messy Problem, Easy Solution

KEEP CONTAMINATION OUT OF YOUR RECYCLING AND OUT OF LANDFILLS

BY ANNE STOKES,
STAFF WRITER, N&R PUBLICATIONS

Ideally, *all* residents should be reducing their waste output and *all* recyclables should be reused to make new items. However, too many of our recyclables are ending up in landfills, taking up precious space and causing more of our limited resources to be used. What is the culprit? Contamination in our recycling bins.

“When you start to have contamination — meaning non-recyclable items placed into the recycling bin — not only does it contaminate what it touches, but it could end up contaminating the entire load. If the entire load is contaminated, even the clean recyclables in the bin may end up being landfilled,” said Daniel Butler, Municipal Relations Representative with Waste Management of North County. “It’s absolutely critical for people to recycle right to begin with.”

While just one greasy pizza box or plastic bag may seem trivial, putting these items in the wrong place can cumulatively create a big mess that pollutes Oceanside’s scenic environment and costs ratepayers.

Environmental impact

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, landfills are the third-largest source of human-related emissions of methane — a potent greenhouse gas.

Contamination results in more landfilled materials.

“The more we put in, the more landfills become greenhouse gas monsters,” said Butler. “If we can find a way to process it and reuse, whether that’s through recycling facilities or reusing items at home, the less goes into landfills and the better impact it will have on the environment.”

Higher costs

Once collected, recyclables are taken to a material recovery facility, or MRF, where they’re sorted, bundled, sold and shipped to manufacturers. Contaminated recyclables get sold at lower prices to international commodity buyers, if they can be sold at all. For example, in 2018, Chinese officials lowered acceptable contamination rates to 0.5 percent from 12 percent. Because of this sudden change, most California facilities are having trouble meeting this lowered threshold — meaning more loads of recyclables are being landfilled.

“The focus on clean recycling has never been more important,” said Butler. “As an industry, we’re scrambling to reinvent everything as soon as possible while changing habits and trying to deal with markets for recyclable materials continuing to drop.”

“It’s absolutely critical for people to recycle right to begin with.”

DANIEL BUTLER
Municipal Relations Representative, Waste Management of North County

Updating facility equipment and taking more time to make sure materials are correctly sorted also results in higher operational costs for facilities, which may mean higher rates for ratepayers.

The solution

Ensuring your recyclables are clean, dry and correctly sorted into your curbside carts does make a difference. Keep contamination out of your carts by:

- ✓ Removing food remnants from containers.
- ✓ Visiting GreenOceanside.org if you’re not sure if something is recyclable. Click on the “Recycle Right” widget to see which cart your item should go in or how it can be repurposed.



Daniel Butler, Municipal Relations Representative at Waste Management of North County, needs residents to recycle correctly so recyclables don’t go to waste and cost ratepayers.

PHOTO BY CHARLIE NEUMAN

WHAT IS CONTAMINATION?

Contamination:

Occurs when hazardous materials or non-recyclables are put into the recycling cart and mixed in with the recyclable materials that do belong there, such as glass, plastics and metals.

Some of the most common contaminants that can ruin loads of recyclables by being placed into the recycling cart include:

- Food-soiled containers or non-recyclable paper products such as napkins, paper towels and tissues
- Plastic bags
- Toxic waste like batteries, medical sharps and electronics

AS EASY as 1-2-3!

BY ANNE STOKES,
STAFF WRITER, N&R PUBLICATIONS

Oceanside's three-cart curbside collection system makes recycling convenient, keeps your community clean and helps rates stay low. Follow this reference guide to see what goes in each cart (and what stays out):

Recycling cart (80% of your waste)

DO put in:

- ✓ Glass bottles
- ✓ Metal containers, such as aluminum and tin cans
- ✓ Plastic such as milk jugs, microwavable trays and laundry soap containers
- ✓ Paper such as junk mail, newspapers, magazines and cardboard

DO NOT put in:

- ✗ Food or food-soiled materials such as napkins or containers
- ✗ "Squishy" or film plastics (if you can manipulate its shape by hand, throw it in the landfill cart)
- ✗ Polystyrene foam
- ✗ Hazardous waste

Green waste cart (15-20% of your waste)

DO put in:

- ✓ Lawn clippings
- ✓ Leaves
- ✓ Small tree branches and shrubs
- ✓ Sawdust

DO NOT put in:

- ✗ Food scraps such as meat, dairy, fruits or vegetables (even from your garden or fruit trees)
- ✗ Painted or stained wood, or large wood pieces
- ✗ Dirt
- ✗ Animal waste

Landfill cart (10% of your waste or less)

DO put in:

- ✓ Food waste and food-soiled paper products
- ✓ Feminine hygiene products and diapers
- ✓ Plastic bags (like those from grocery stores and dry cleaners)
- ✓ Polystyrene foam

DO NOT put in hazardous waste such as:

- ✗ Batteries or electronic devices
- ✗ Paint or motor oil
- ✗ Medical sharps or pharmaceuticals
- ✗ Disposable gas canisters

NOTE:

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is a huge safety risk and must be taken to Oceanside's HHW facility for disposal.

TIP:

Materials must be clean of food residue (give them a quick rinse!) and dry.

TIP:

Oceanside residents can get **free** compost from the El Corazon Compost Facility!

TIP:

Call Waste Management at 760-439-2824 to schedule a free drop-off appointment.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CITY OF OCEANSIDE



Whatever is put into a recycling cart may be touched by a line worker. That's why whatever goes into the cart must belong there!
PHOTO COURTESY OF WASTE MANAGEMENT OF NORTH COUNTY

Protect Our Community and Environment: SAFE NEEDLE DISPOSAL

DON'T PUT NEEDLES IN THE RECYCLING CART SO WORKERS CAN STAY SAFE

BY RODNEY OROSCO,
STAFF WRITER, N&R PUBLICATIONS

On a daily basis, workers face the dangers of hypodermic needles — whether it be from the servicing of a trash can, or from a milk jug overflowing with used hypodermic needles and moving at a speed of 200 feet per minute on a sorting line.

“With the needles sticking out of the jug, it looks like a very dangerous porcupine,” said Marc Harismendy, Plant Manager at Waste Management’s Pico Rivera MRF. “It’s shocking as these items pose a serious threat to the health and safety of our workforce.”

When used medical sharps — like needles, lancets and auto-injectors — are disposed of improperly, they endanger workers from Oceanside all the way to Orange where the recyclables are sorted.

Harismendy sees his workers endangered on the line every day by hazardous items that were incorrectly tossed into the recycle cart.

“People need to understand that throwing something in the recycling cart is **not** an out of sight, out of mind proposition,” he said. “Someone is going to touch that recycling.”

Line workers use state-of-the-art personal protective equipment to protect themselves, but that’s not always enough. Sharps and needles are hard to see and can hide in unexpected places.

“I remember one guy was cleaning out some equipment and he got stuck in the leg,” said Harismendy.

Whenever a worker is stuck, the recycling line is shut down in an attempt to recover what stuck the employee. Although extra costs are incurred when the line stops, the real concern is the safety of the worker.

“Getting stuck causes a worker tremendous anxiety,” Harismendy explained. “Think about it: You don’t know what is in that needle. Suddenly, the worker is hearing

“Throwing something in the recycling cart is **not** an out of sight, out of mind proposition.”

MARC HARISMENDY
Plant Manager, Waste Management

words like HIV, tetanus and hepatitis when they are tested.”

Testing for infectious diseases can take up to a year before a worker is cleared, meaning that worker and their family face a year of anxiety about their health and future. Workers are often cleared to return to work much sooner, but then must face the same danger of needles on the line while they wait to hear on the last of their lab results.

“It is a horrible thing to put a worker and their family through,” he said. “That waiting, that anxiety.”

The key to preventing all of this? Properly disposing of medical sharps at designated take back locations (see a list of locations on the right). Our workforce relies on the public to do the right thing when it comes to hazardous materials like sharps. Their lives and their family’s lives depend on your support and actions.

TAKE BACK LOCATIONS

Protect Oceanside by keeping sharps and pharmaceuticals out of the trash! Instead, deposit them into a collection drop box at one of the below locations for easy disposal.

Where to take medical sharps

(Secure sharps in a sealed rigid plastic container prior to deposit)

EL CORAZON SENIOR CENTER
3302 SENIOR CENTER DRIVE
OCEANSIDE, CA 92056

COUNTRY CLUB SENIOR CENTER
455 COUNTRY CLUB LANE
OCEANSIDE, CA 92054

WASTE MANAGEMENT RECYCLING & BUYBACK CENTER
2880 INDUSTRY ST.
OCEANSIDE, CA 92054

Where to take pharmaceuticals

OCEANSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT, EVIDENCE AND PROPERTY FACILITY
4927 OCEANSIDE BLVD.
OCEANSIDE, CA 92056

Have questions about recycling?

Contact the City of Oceanside’s Solid Waste and Recycling staff at OceansideRecycles@ci.oceanside.ca.us, call 760-435-4500, or visit GreenOceanside.org.