

# Free Your Recyclables

Due to global changes in the recycling industry and commodity markets, collecting quality recyclable materials is more important than ever. WM needs your help to reduce recycling contamination. To launch this initiative, we are focusing on one of the biggest contaminants - bagged recyclables. We are asking customers to **"LOOSE LOAD"** their recycling.

## What is the problem and why does it matter?



**Don't Bag Recyclables - Place items directly in recycling container.**

### **Plastic bags add another step to recycling:**

Breaking open bags containing recyclable materials requires additional labor, slows down the recycling process and increases the cost of recycling.

**Plastic bags interfere with machinery:** Plastic bags get wrapped around the equipment, requiring us to shut down the recycling process several times a day. Workers are then required to climb into the machinery and cut plastic bags out of gears and screens. This poses a safety threat to workers and increases the cost of recycling. (*see the flip side for steps you can take.*)

To learn more, visit  
[wm.com/recycleright](https://wm.com/recycleright)



# What can you do?

## **“Loose Load” your recycling! Here’s how:**

- 1) If needed, use only plastic liners for smaller recycling bins typically used inside your facility in offices or for breakroom recycling.
- 2) Check the liners for food or liquid contamination before you empty the recyclable materials into the recycling dumpster. If the liners contain food or liquid, they are contaminated. Cinch these bags and place in the trash.
- 3) If recyclable materials in the liner are clean and dry, leave the bag untied and take it to the dumpster.
- 4) At the recycling dumpster, empty the recyclable materials directly into the container. Reuse, take back to accepting local retailers, or dispose of the liner in the trash.

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## **Let’s all get back to the basics of good recycling and remember these three simple rules each time you toss something into your recycling container:**



**Recycle empty and dry bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.**



**Keep food and liquid out of your recycling.**



**No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables.**

Thank you for being a WM customer. We look forward to helping your business recycle right. For more information, tools, and resources to set your business up for recycling success, visit [wm.com/recycleright](https://wm.com/recycleright).

