



## Why do recyclables have to be empty and clean before tossing in the blue cart?

Recyclables that are collected in your blue recycling cart are sorted by material type, compressed into bales and then sold as raw material to end-users and manufacturers for use in new products and packaging. One of the key drivers of recyclables pricing is quality and cleanliness. Food and liquids are contaminants and should not go in the blue recycling cart. Recyclables that have too much contamination lose value, can be rejected by end-users and even end up being disposed as trash.

### How Can You Help?

- Make sure food and beverage containers are empty before placing containers in the cart.
- Do a quick rinse for recyclables that contain a thick residue like peanut butter or spaghetti sauce.
- Keep food-contaminated paper such as napkins and paper towels out of the blue carts. The same goes for pizza boxes that are soaked in grease. Dry and relatively grease-free pizza boxes are acceptable.