

Should I still be recycling?

As a Fort Worth resident, you hold the key to a successful recycling program in our city! Recycling is easy and convenient, and it all starts with avoiding or minimizing the contamination of the recycling material.

Benefits of recycling include:

- 💰 Recycling may save you money in the long run. The city's landfill is filling up much faster than planned. The current estimate of capacity left is 22 years. The cost for a new landfill is estimated to be \$35 million, which will be paid by businesses and residents.
- 🌱 Be a part of the solution! Environmentally responsible waste management practices contribute to Fort Worth's overall quality of life.



FAQs ABOUT RECYCLING IN FORT WORTH

Is recycling broken?

No. Fort Worth residents successfully recycled and diverted 88,351,400 lbs. of acceptable residential single-stream material away from the landfill in 2019.

Where does all the recycling materials go?

Materials are taken to the recycling facility where they are sorted and then sold to manufacturers/mills to make new products. We need every resident's help to ensure all materials are the cleanest and of the best value possible due to a recession in the global recycling market.

What challenges are there with recycling?

- Near 30% of Fort Worth's recycling is contaminated.

- Anything that cannot be processed by the machines at the recycling facility is contamination, including:

» "Wishcycling"

This includes clothes, toys, and stuffed animals — things that may be reusable but cannot be sorted and recycled at the MRF.

» *Food waste and things that rot.*

These can ruin the quality of actual recyclables (especially paper) which means they cannot be sold and will go into the landfill.

» *Composite materials*

Pump dispensers contain plastic and metal; paper plates are often coated in a plastic to protect them from absorbing food, therefore they cannot be recycled.

Recycling is easy and makes sense!

- Keep it simple — recycle the big four:
 1. Plastic containers
 2. Metal/Aluminum cans or containers
 3. Glass
 4. Paper and flattened cardboard
- Remember to make sure everything is empty, clean and dry.
- When in doubt, throw it out!
- No tanglers (like hangers, electrical cords, and water hoses), plastic bags, food, batteries, or other non-acceptable items in the recycle bins!

Keep in mind: When contamination (items that cannot be recycled and/or are not acceptable materials) goes to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), it has to be sorted out and removed, then sent to the landfill. This process is time-consuming and costly. In the end, we are all paying for it.

Don't know how to dispose of a specific material?

Check the Waste Wizard at:

www.FortWorthTexas.gov/SolidWaste
or call 817-392-1234.