

# Frequently Asked Questions... And Answers!

## 1. WHY do we recycle?

When we recycle, we help to conserve natural resources like trees, metals, water, and oil. Natural resources are used to make our everyday stuff. By recycling, we are able to reuse and conserve natural resources, reduce pollution, save energy and water, and create meaningful jobs.

## 2. WHERE does our recycling go?

When a Waste Management recycling truck picks up your recyclables from the curb, it takes them to the Cascade Recycling Center in Woodinville, Washington. Over 250,000 households in western Washington send their recyclables to the Cascade Recycling Center. Every year, approximately 144,000 tons of materials are sorted using specially designed machinery and sorting staff. The recyclables are grouped with other similar items and shipped to factories where they can be made into something new.

## 3. WHAT things can we recycle?

In Snohomish County, we can recycle a lot!

**Plastic:** Plastic bottles, jars, jugs, and dairy tubs can all be recycled.

**Mixed paper:** Writing paper such as printer, notebook, and construction paper, as well as newspaper, magazines, cardboard and paperboard are all recyclable. You can even leave on small things like staples and tape!

**Metal:** Aluminum, tin and steel food and beverage containers are accepted. Just make sure they are food and liquid free!

**Glass:** Unbroken food and beverage bottles and jars of any color and shape are accepted.

It's our job to keep garbage, food, and liquids out of the recycling! Non-recyclable items that are placed in recycling carts cause problems at the recycling center and have to be removed by hand by trained staff.



## 4. WHAT happens to something after it has been recycled?

Recycling creates a new life for products when recyclables are sent to factories around the world to become new items. Here are some fun examples:



## 5. HOW do I know if my plastic is recyclable?

Many, though not all plastics are recyclable. **Plastic is recyclable based on the ability to make it into a new product.** Plastics that are accepted for recycling include plastic bottles, jars, cups, and tubs. Ignore the arrows and number and just remember the following shapes: bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs!

Non-Recyclables:  
Grocery and Ziploc bags, cling wrap, candy wrappers, and anything made from foam are **NOT** accepted for curbside recycling.

## 6. WHERE does our garbage go?

When a Waste Management garbage truck picks up your garbage it is taken to one of several transfer stations in Snohomish County. At the transfer station, machines load the waste onto a train that goes hundreds of miles to the Roosevelt Landfill in eastern Washington. At the landfill, your garbage is compacted and buried and sits there forever.



Believe it or not, we are frequently asked if we can send our garbage to outer space or place it into a volcano. The answer is no! It would be extremely expensive and pollute our environment. So the best way of dealing with our garbage is to rethink, reduce, reuse, and recycle our waste (4 Rs).