

Welcome!

**RecycleOrNot.org**

Thank you for joining my presentation today. My name is \_\_\_\_ and I am a Master Recycler from Class \_\_\_\_\_. I will tell you a little bit more about what a Master Recycler is at the end. I am here to focus on recycling in our region and help folks navigate what goes in the recycling and what goes in the trash. I will especially focus on a great new tool in our region called Recycle or Not.

## Sort it out!

Not Recyclable

Recyclable

Most people in our region get it that recycling is important to do. In fact they might be getting it too well. We have a bigger problem with people we call “wishful recyclers” than we do with people who throw everything away. When people here are not sure which container to put an item into, we tend to think it is better to error on the side of recycling it. Unfortunately, putting trash in with the recycling costs the whole system money and resources, adds to dangers to workers and will likely end up in landfills in other countries causing more harm than good.

Some items are creating confusion for recyclers. And it is best when in doubt to throw it out.

But Metro has created this easy website, Recycle or Not, to make it so we can easily find out what to do.

In fact, if you recycle at home or work, it is a good idea to just check the lists to make sure you're recycling right. It won't take long, but it will make a difference for the environment and workers. It turns out that a lot of people that Metro surveyed were quite confidently recycling things that don't belong in the recycle containers.

SPOTLIGHT ITEM

## We're plastic takeout containers, and we say:

Eat from us. Drink from us. Just please don't put us in your recycling bin.



Recycle or Not has some spotlight items. These are materials that people commonly think they should recycle. And these materials have a message for us:

We're take out containers. We're here for you when you're hungry or thirsty, whether you've got a hankering for fried rice or need your iced coffee fix. But we're not recyclable at home or work. So when you're done with us, throw us in the trash.

Plastic takeout containers like us... we're bad news. We can end up as litter, impacting the environment. And since we're usually used just once, we end up creating a lot of extra waste. Putting trash like us in the recycling bin is causing problems here in Oregon and around the world. Help us do a little less harm by throwing us in the trash.

There is one exception—one plastic takeout container that belongs in your recycling bin with milk cartons and soda cans and the rest. It's the round plastic container that holds things like soup. Go forth and recycle that container. The rest of us? Just throw us away.

**We're plastic bags and plastic wrap.  
Please don't put us in the recycling bin.**

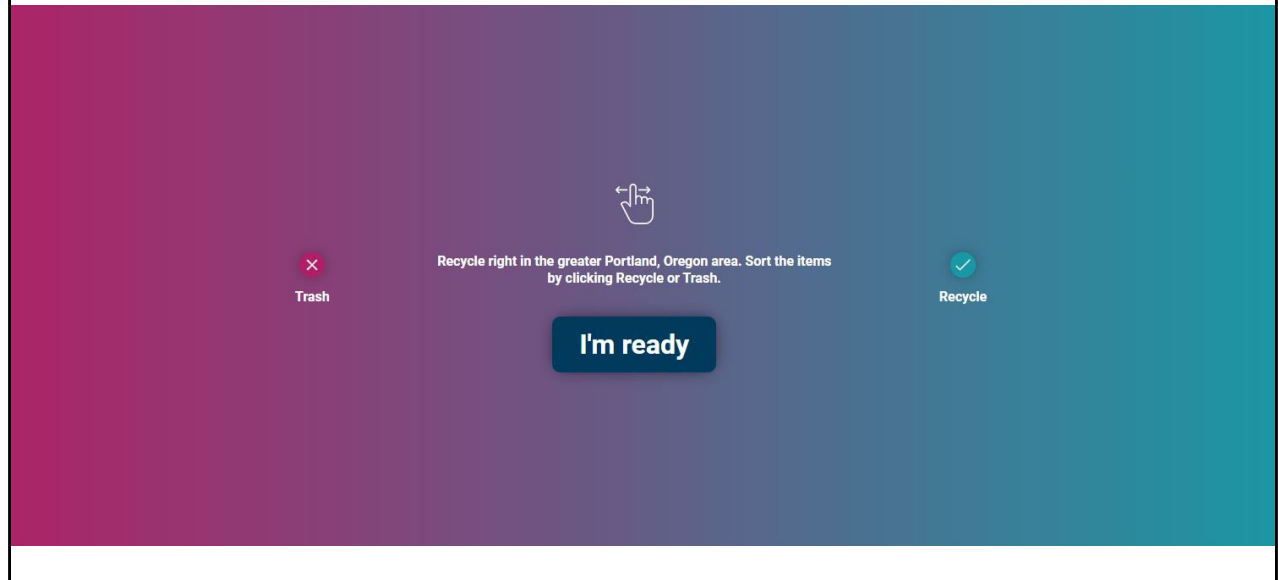


That goes for all of us, too: the plastic shopping bags you get at restaurants and stores. The plastic bags for buying fruits and vegetables and the kind that zip-lock closed. Cling wrap and the packaging around your toilet paper and paper towels. None of us belong in your recycling bin.

Plastic bags and plastic wrap like us create big problems. We can end up as litter, impacting the environment. We also jam up the machines that sort recycling. Basically, we are trouble.

So the next time you're recycling at home or at work, don't recycle us. It's much better to throw us in the trash. It may feel wrong, but you're protecting the environment by keeping us out of your recycling bin.

## Play the Game!



Now we're going to play the Recycle or Not game! They are going to show an item and you all will vote on whether it belongs in the trash or the recycling. I will enter the one with the highest votes and see how we do. The fun thing about this game is that it has new items all the time. So you can come back to recycle or not and play again if you want. Are we ready??

## Plastics



- Bottles with a neck – 6 oz. or larger
- Margarine-type tubs – 6 oz. or larger
- Rigid flower pots – 4" or larger
- Buckets – 5 gallons or smaller

I am just going to cover a few groups of materials that you can put in the recycling and then we will open up for questions.

There are only four kinds of plastic that are allowed in the recycling. If you memorize these, you know that you can throw the others away. We do not use numbers in this region. Containers are all sorted out from the paper and cardboard by machines and so they are using size and shape to determine which direction to send the containers. Here are the four sizes and shapes allowed.

Please be sure and take all of the lids off of these items and put them in the garbage.

# Paper



Here are the paper products that you can put in the recycling. It is best to cut the cardboard into smaller pieces and flatten it, but the milk, egg and soymilk or soup cartons do not need to be flattened. Go ahead and put all of these items in loose. Do not place them in a bag.

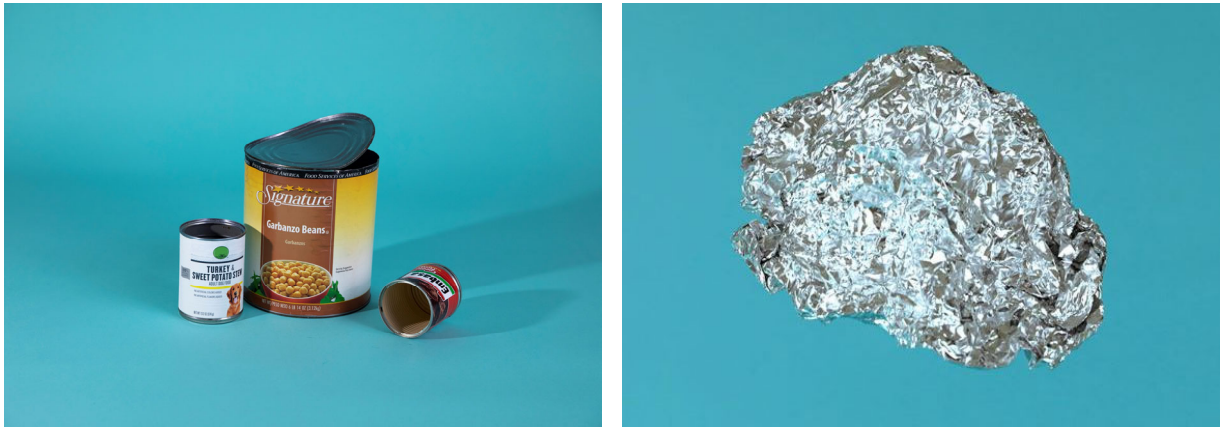
## Paper that goes in the trash



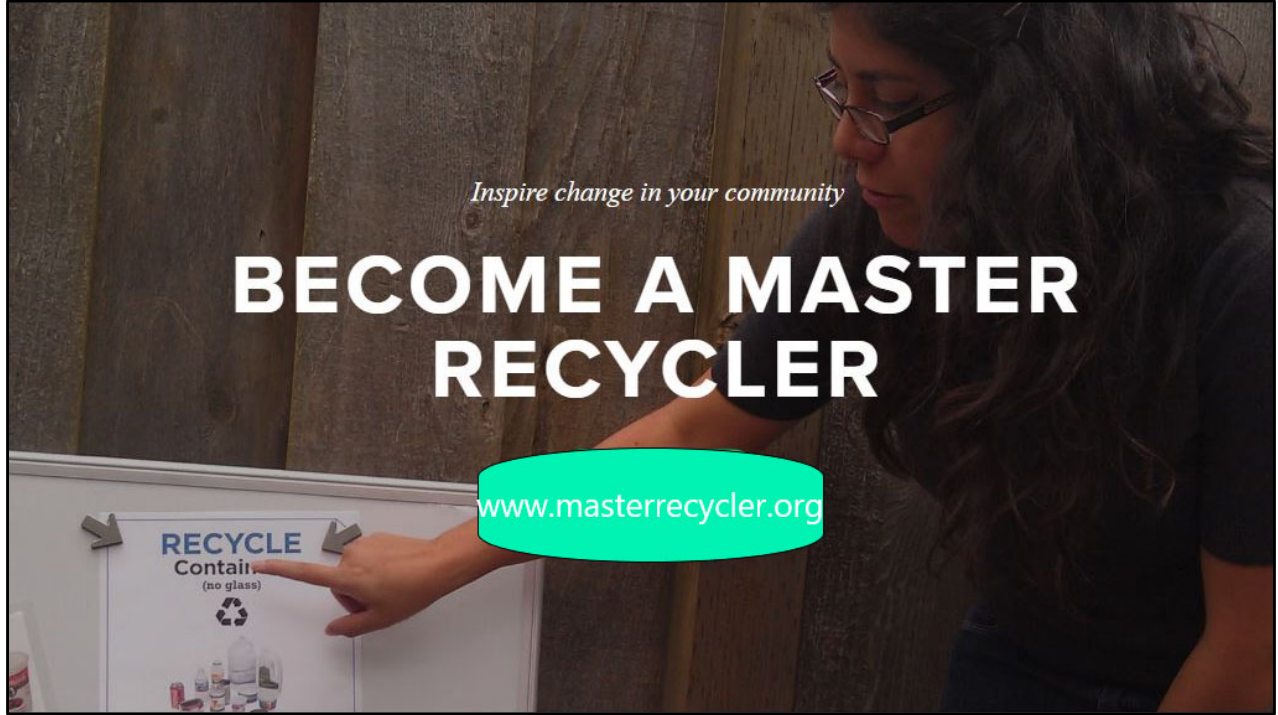
Coffee cups and all take away paper products go in the garbage. So do all items that goes in the freezer. All of these items have a plastic injected in them to hold up against high or low temperatures and moisture. So they can contaminate regular recycling.



# Metal



With metal cans, it is best to leave the lid on the can, but bend it inward to ensure that workers at the recycling sorting facilities don't get cut. You no longer need to flatten or take off labels. Be sure that aluminum is completely clean and make a ball of your pieces of aluminum so that it is more easily separated from paper which is also flat.



*Inspire change in your community*

# BECOME A MASTER RECYCLER

[www.masterrecycler.org](http://www.masterrecycler.org)

I mentioned in the beginning that I am a Master Recycler. I took an eight-week course and then promised to share back in my community what I learned. (Tell a little about your experience as a Master Recycler) What questions do you have about recycling?