

Ramsey Recycles

Recycle Better Campaign – Short Articles

What to do with batteries

If it lights up, makes noise or moves without a plug, it has a battery. Batteries in your trash or recycling can cause fires and create hazards for the people who manage your trash and recycling. Be a battery hero and bring all used batteries to a [drop-off site near you](#).

What to do with shredded paper

Recycle better! You may have been told you can recycle shredded paper in your recycling cart, if you put it in a paper bag and staple the bag shut. But the tiny pieces of paper are difficult to sort at the recycling facilities and they don't get recycled, even if you put them in a paper bag. Don't put any paper smaller than a postcard in your recycling cart. So what should you do with shredded paper? First, ask yourself if it really needs to be shredded. If it does, refer to our [A to Z Recycling and Disposal Guide](#) for retail locations that shred your documents for you for a small fee or put it in your trash.

What to do with large plastic items

Recycle better! Yes, you can recycle plastic containers with the numbers 1, 2 and 5 – like milk jugs, yogurt cups and shampoo bottles – in your recycling cart. But that's where it ends. Please do not recycle large plastic items like laundry baskets, crates or buckets. Also, do not recycle black plastic containers. Items at the recycling facilities move through the sorting process on a black conveyor belt. The conveyor belt is black, so the sorting machines for plastics are designed to not detect the color black. Therefore, your black containers will not get sorted for recycling. Please place them in the trash. If you have questions about an item, refer to our [A to Z Recycling and Disposal guide](#) or call our 24/7 hotline at 651-633-EASY (3279).

What to do with plastic bags

Recycle better! Many of us have lots of plastic bags at home and want to recycle them or put our recyclables inside them. But did you know they are not accepted with curbside recycling? They can get caught in the sorting machines at recycling facilities, bringing the entire sorting process to a halt. Take your plastic bags to a local retailer instead. Visit [PlasticFilmRecycling.org](#) for a list of drop-off locations near you.

What to do with string lights and other tangles

Recycle Better! Just a friendly reminder this holiday season that string lights don't belong in your recycling cart. Nor do chains, hoses, ropes or other things that coil. They can wrap around equipment at recycling facilities, bringing the entire sorting process to a halt, and they won't be recycled.

If you have string lights to get rid of, drop them off at our free [household hazardous waste collection site](#) where they will be recycled. Metal chains can be brought to a [scrap metal recycler](#). Hoses and ropes should go in the trash.

If you're not sure if an item is recyclable, refer to our online [A to Z Recycling & Disposal Guide](#) or call our hotline at 651-633-EASY (3279), which is answered 24/7.