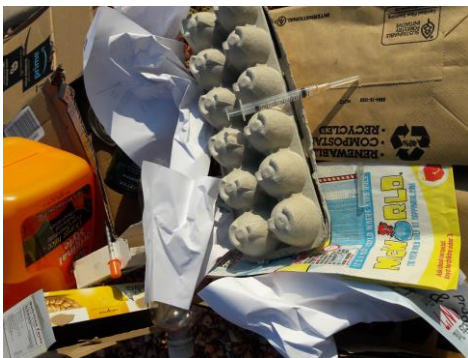


Be Bright, Recycle Right!

WHAT NOT TO RECYCLE NEEDLES & BIOHAZARDS

TOP 10 CONTAMINANTS

1. Plastic Bags
2. Needles/Biohazardous Waste
3. Wire, hose, cords, rope & chains
4. Propane Tanks
5. Yard Waste/Wood
6. Motor Oil Containers
7. Electronics
8. Food Waste
9. Clothing/Shoes
10. Mercury Containing Objects



Needles contaminating recycling
Photo by Esther Davis – Trans-Jordan

NEVER RECYCLE NEEDLES

October is Diabetic Awareness Month and the perfect time to discuss needles and biohazardous waste recycling contamination. Needles are *the* most dangerous contaminant sent to recycling facilities. Some people dispose of needles in a milk jug or sharps container and place them in their curbside recycling bin. Needles and all biohazardous waste, including syringes that have had the needle removed, are dangerous and **never** considered recyclable. Recycling trucks have compression mechanisms that can break containers open resulting in dirty needles spreading throughout the entire recycling load. Once loaded on the conveyor belt at the recycling facilities, these needles pose significant health and safety hazards to the people who are touching and sorting recycling.

Needles are the most dangerous contaminant sent to recycling facilities

If a worker is stuck by a dirty needle, they are sent immediately for baseline laboratory testing. Infectious diseases such as HIV, hepatitis B, and a variety of others are transmitted through dirty needles. Since some diseases do not manifest in the blood immediately, the worker is retested months later. Keep others safe by disposing of needles and biohazardous waste appropriately and never attempt to recycle them.

Your questions, comments, and ideas are always welcome! Please contact education@transjordan.org and they may be mentioned in our article or FAQ page. Visit transjordan.org/recycle for more recycling information.

Q: Can unwanted clothing and shoes be recycled at the curbside?

A: No! There are many ways to donate used clothing and shoes, but if these articles go to a recycling center they end up as trash. Search for clothing drop-off bins or nearby charity thrift stores that can re-use clothes and shoes.



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