

# Be Bright, Recycle Right!

## WHAT NOT TO RECYCLE

### TANGLERS WRECK MACHINES

#### 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



Hose contaminating recycling  
Photo by Cody Marshall – Recycling Partnership

#### NO WIRES, HOSE, CORDS, ROPE & CHAINS

'Tis the season to put away the garden hose and untangle Christmas lights. As you winterize the garden and bring out your decorations, remember that long, rope-like objects such as garden hose and Christmas lights do not belong in your curbside recycling bin. Wires, ropes and chains wrap around and damage spinning parts at recycling plants. These items are referred to as “tangles” by recycling workers. Tangles are problematic at recycling plants because they present considerable safety hazards to the workers who hand-sort our recycling. There is nothing recyclable about tangles, even if they are made from material (such as metal) that could be recycled.

“Wires, hose, ropes and chains wrap around and damage spinning parts...”

On any given day, hundreds of tons of recyclable materials are sorted, baled and shipped to their final recycling destination. The only way to sort large volumes of recycling is to automate the process as much as possible. Sending tangles through the automated machinery results in significant damage and maintenance challenges to the machinery, resulting in more downtime to fix and maintain these automated machines. When it comes to deciding if an item belongs in the curbside recycling, remember that if it can be tangled or is made of more than one type of material, such as plastic *and* metal (such as wire), it is not recyclable at the curbside.

To keep tangles out of the landfill, look for drop-off locations that accept these items to be reused or recycled such as e-waste bins for your wired appliances, and metal locations for your cables and chains. Trans-Jordan’s public convenience center accepts e-waste and metal for free. But if you are unable to bring tangles to a drop-off location, please do not place them in your curbside recycling, just place them in your trash can instead.

**Q:** Do electronics get recycled at the curbside?

**A: No!** They get sent to the landfill. Electronics must be recycled at e-waste drop-off locations in order to be recycled, or donated to others for re-use.



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