

# COMMON RECYCLING MYTHS



**Myth:** The recyclables in my landfill container will be sorted out.

**Truth:** Trash is not sorted. All trash will be sent to the city's State Route 85 landfill.

**Myth:** The recycling and trash gets dumped into the same collection truck.

**Truth:** Recycling and trash are collected on the same day, but by different trucks. This is necessary in order to not contaminate recyclables.



**Myth:** Recyclables just go to the landfill anyways.

**Truth:** All recyclables are sent to one of our Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF's). The MRF's goal is to remove contamination from the recyclables and to sort the recyclables back into their main categories of paper, plastic, glass and metal. The materials are then sold and transported to their next destination to be recycled.

**Myth:** Paper towels, napkins and tissue paper are recyclable.

**Truth:** No, they are not recyclable. Paper towels, napkins and tissue paper are at the end of their life because the fibers are too short to be recycled.

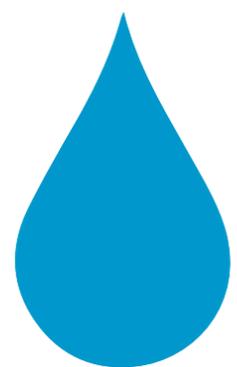


**Myth:** Recyclables need to be spotless to be recycled.

**Truth:** Recyclables should be clean, dry and empty before being placed in the recycle container. Make sure the majority of food particles are either scraped or rinsed out. Just a quick rinse is all you need.

**Myth:** Rinsing recyclables wastes water.

**Truth:** The amount of water you use to rinse your recyclables is small compared to the big picture. In fact, by recycling steel there is a 40% water savings and by recycling glass, there is a 50% water savings (University of Central Oklahoma). A quick rinse is all you need to clean your recyclables.



# COMMON RECYCLING MYTHS

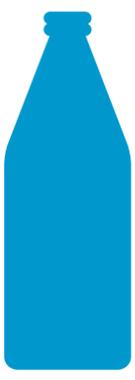


**Myth: I can't donate clothes if they are really worn out.**

**Truth:** Many reuse and donation centers can accept these materials. If they cannot sell them, they often have ways that they can recycle or reuse the fibers.

**Myth: Pizza boxes are never recyclable.**

**Truth:** Pizza boxes can be recycled if they have minimal grease. However, if the bottom of the box is completely covered in grease or cheese, then rip off the lid and recycle it. Throw away the greasy bottom.

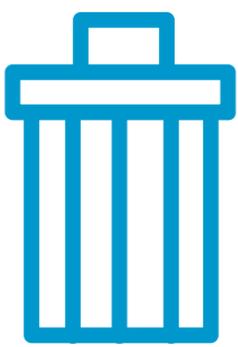
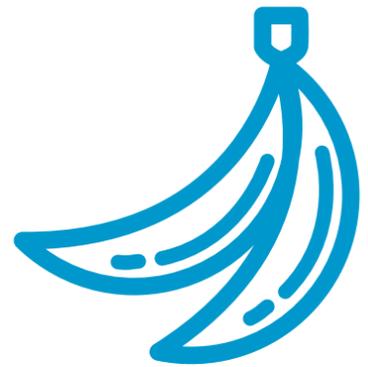


**Myth: Lids need to be removed on plastic bottles.**

**Truth:** Keep all lids on your plastic bottles, jars and jugs. Anything smaller than 2.5 inches in diameter will fall through the cracks of our recycling machinery. If you keep the lid on, it will ensure the lid is recycled too. Glass items are the opposite. Remove lids from glass jars and bottles and place in the recycle container.

**Myth: Food can go in the recycle container.**

**Truth:** Please do not put food in the recycle container. Food contaminates the recyclables. When a recyclable item is contaminated with food, it ruins the material and limits its recyclability.



**Myth: Compostable plastics are recyclable.**

**Truth:** Compostable plastics are not accepted in the recycle container. Check to see if a local composter can take these materials, if not, they need to be placed in the trash container. If in doubt, throw it out.

**Myth: Plastic is only recyclable if it has a recycle symbol or number on it.**

**Truth:** In Phoenix, we do not focus on the plastic numbers because they can be misleading. The plastic numbers tell you what type of plastic they are, not whether they are recyclable. For example, foam is often labeled with a #6, but foam is not recyclable.

