

# The Gainesville Zero Waste News

## 41 Tons of Material Gets Rejected for Recycling Each Month in Gainesville & Alachua County

Every month, over 41 tons (or 83,000 pounds) of contaminated material ends up at our local recycling center. This includes items that either aren't accepted for recycling in the first place or recyclable items unsuitable for processing. Contamination drives up the cost of processing, as extra time and effort are needed to sort out these materials. Also, contaminants can damage sorting equipment and reduce the overall quality and market value of recyclables.

Here's how you can help cut down on recycling contamination:

- **Take a few moments to quickly review the list of materials accepted for recycling at [gainesvillefl.gov/WhatCanBeRecycled](http://gainesvillefl.gov/WhatCanBeRecycled).**
- **Don't put food-contaminated materials in your recycle bins, such as greasy pizza boxes, donut boxes, or sticky peanut butter jars.** Food residue should be rinsed out or removed from all containers before placing them in your recycle bins.
- **Place your recyclables in the correct bins.** Bottles & Cans go in the blue bin, and Papers go in the orange bin.
- **Flatten and empty out all boxes.** Foam and other plastic packaging materials are not recyclable.



By following these simple steps, we can reduce contamination and support a more sustainable recycling program for our community. Learn more at [gainesvillefl.gov/ZeroWaste](http://gainesvillefl.gov/ZeroWaste), or follow us on social media – @ZeroWasteGNV on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ZeroWasteGNV) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/ZeroWasteGNV).

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