



# TOP 10 RECYCLING MYTHS

AND HOW TO AVOID THEIR TRAPS



## **MYTH: Recycling is hard.**

**No, it isn't!** Recycling is as easy as throwing something in the trash. Arm yourself with the list of what is accepted in your program and pair your trash cans with recycling containers. Place them side by side for success!



## **MYTH: Recyclables need to be washed, which wastes water.**

**Don't waste water!** Recyclables only need to be emptied. Rinse quickly only if soiled.



## **MYTH: OK – but what about the transportation. Doesn't it take more energy to drive recyclables around?**

**Even with transportation, recycling saves energy!** But there's more - recycling also reduces the creation of greenhouse gases, generates US jobs, and saves natural resources. **When shopping, look for items made with recycled content to make the biggest energy-saving impacts!**



## **RECYCLING IS SO 1990.**



**Doesn't everyone  
do it?**

**YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED...**

Only **half** of Americans can recycle at home as easily as they can throw something away.

The Recycling Partnership is working hard to make recycling a reality for all.

---

**STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!**

Take the pledge to recycle at  
**[ItsAllYou.org](https://ItsAllYou.org)**

**#ItsAllYouRecycle**

The Recycling Partnership is a national nonprofit organization that leverages corporate partner funding to transform recycling for good across America, working hand in hand with communities, cities, and states to provide the tools and resources to make necessary improvements to their recycling programs.





### **MYTH: Pizza boxes are not recyclable.**

**Pizza boxes are recyclable, crusts are not!**  
Make sure to remove crusts and scrape cheese off the inside of the box before recycling.



### **MYTH: If something has the recycling arrows on it, it's recyclable, right?**

**No — not always.** Those little arrows refer to the type of plastic the items were made from, not how recyclable they are. But most communities can recycle plastic bottles and containers. You just need to check with your local program. **Please recycle plastic bags at your local retailer — not in your recycling bin.**



### **MYTH: If you put the cap on a bottle it isn't recyclable.**

**Keep that cap on!** Unless your local recycling program has a different stance, the plastics recyclers out there want to recycle all they can — caps included!



### **MYTH: Compostable items can be recycled, right?**

**No! Composting and recycling happen in different ways.** Food waste and compostable serveware **CANNOT** be recycled. Compost collection is not readily accessible to most people, but many municipalities offer support for backyard composting.



### **MYTH: Bag Your Recyclables.**

**Leave your recycling loose and free!** Unless you are instructed to by your community, never place bagged recyclables inside your cart or bins. If you collect your recyclables in a plastic bag, remove them from the bag before placing them in your bin. Return plastic bags to retail stores only.



### **MYTH: I thought I saw the garbage truck pick up my recycling.**

**Maybe.** Sometimes communities use the same trucks for all collection, which can be confusing to residents. Don't worry, your recyclables are taken to a sorting facility where they are separated and baled to sell back to manufacturers.

**JUST LIKE ANY OTHER SYSTEM, SUCCESS DEPENDS ON LOTS OF  
SMALL ACTIONS AND THOSE ACTIONS ALL ADD UP.  
PLEASE, RECYCLE WITH CARE.**