Recycling Right Means Quality Over Quantity

You’ve heard it before – Recycle Often. Recycle Right. When it comes to recycling, each action can make a big difference for our environment. We need the right things ending up in the bin to keep the recycling process going.

Unfortunately, up to 65 percent of consumers place non-recyclables in their curbside recycling bins and dumpsters. One bad apple - as the saying goes - can spoil the bunch, reducing recycling values and contaminating otherwise good recyclables.

All types of plastic bags can shut down an entire recycling plant, and plastic stretch wrap, bubble wrap and other plastic films get tangled in the equipment; breaking or stopping machinery. Same goes for clothing, rubber hoses, shower curtains and strings of lights - all recycling offenders.

If it’s not bottles, cans, paper or cardboard, it probably does not belong in your recycling container and may even require special handling. There are resources, like Earth911.org, that can help answer questions about what to do with non-recyclables or other special materials.

Remember, some recycling actions make a bigger impact than others. These are the rules to recycling right:

1. Recycle all empty plastic bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.
2. Keep food and liquid out of your recycling.
3. Empty recyclables directly into your cart. NO bagged recyclables. Return plastic bags to a local grocer.

By focusing on the most common recyclable products and following these basic rules, you can help us significantly impact the amount of good, recyclable materials entering our facilities.

Visit www.RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com to access valuable resources and tools to Recycle Right at home and at work. Make sure to visit us on Facebook and Twitter for additional recycling news and tips.

Join Waste Management and make the commitment to not only recycle often, but to make sure you are recycling right.