

# Remove or Change

## Identifying Contaminants in a Recycling Stream

When materials are sent to the recycling facility, machines and people sort the recycling stream and remove items that either damage equipment, present a hazard to the workers, or can't be recycled. **For each recycling stream below, find the item that is a contaminant (is not recyclable) and the item that must be changed before it can be recycled. Explain your answers.**

**Example:** If these items are in your recycling stream, identify 1) the contaminant, and 2) the item that must be changed before it can be recycled.



	<b>Explanation:</b>
<b>Item to be removed:</b> Plastic bag	Plastic bags get caught in the machines at the recycling plant.
<b>Item to be changed:</b> Flattened can	The machines identify anything that is flat as paper. A flattened can could be accidentally sorted as paper instead of an aluminum can.

### RECYCLING STREAM #1



	<b>Explanation:</b>
<b>Item to be removed:</b> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Item to be changed:</b> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### RECYCLING STREAM #2



	<b>Explanation:</b>
<b>Item to be removed:</b> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Item to be changed:</b> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

# Remove or Change, Continued...

## RECYCLING STREAM #3



	Explanation:
Item to be removed: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Item to be changed: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

## RECYCLING STREAM #4



	Explanation:
Item to be removed: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Item to be changed: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Recycle Stream #1:

*Remove:* Bicycle tire — it will tear up the machines in the plant.

*Change:* Non-flattened cardboard box — cardboard boxes must be flattened so that the machines will recognize them as a “flat” and sort them with other cardboard and papers.

### Recycle Stream #2:

*Remove:* Shredded paper — it can damage the machines and must be taken out of the recycling stream.

*Change:* Half-full can of beans — all recyclables must be emptied of all food or liquids, which are a hazard to the workers because food and liquids can grow mold and bacteria, attracting stinging insects.

### Recycle Stream #3:

*Remove:* Metal pipe — it can cause damage to the machines and can’t be recycled.

*Change:* Flattened plastic bottle -- it could be recognized by the machines as a “flat”, which are papers. The machines will only recognize bottles if they have the shape of a bottle, and then will then be sorted correctly with other “rounds.”

### Recycle Stream #4:

*Remove:* Lotion tube – cannot be recycled.

*Change:* Flattened milk carton -- it could be recognized by the machines as a “flat,” which are papers. The machines will only recognize cartons if they have the shape of a carton and then will be sorted correctly with other “rounds.”

