

Work Your Way Through a Recycling Facility

Read about each step that happens at a typical recycling facility in order to sort materials into bales. Match the material(s) to the steps below.



STEP 1

Tipping Floor

Recycling trucks dump this onto the “tipping floor” where it is loaded onto a conveyor belt entering the plant. What is it?

STEP 2

Pre-Sort Station

Workers remove these contaminants from the conveyor belt so they won’t damage the machinery. What are they?

STEP 3

Screens

Screens with large rotating disks separate these flat items from containers. They float on top of the rubber disks while the containers fall through. What are they?

STEP 4

Magnet

Powerful magnets pull these items from the conveyor belt and separate them into their own bin. What are they?

STEP 5

Optical Sorter

Lasers identify these items and separate them from other materials by spraying them with a powerful air jet. What are they?

STEP 6

Eddy Current Separator

This machine creates a current and electrically charges the item so it can be separated from the recycling stream. What is it?

Answers: 1 - Single-stream materials, 2 - Plastic bag, Metal pipe, 3 - Newspaper, Mail, Cardboard, 4 - Steel can, 5 - Laundry detergent jug, Plastic bottle, 6 - Soda can.

