



Borough of Lincoln Park Department of Public Works

To: Lincoln Park Residents
Re: Q & A Curbside Recycling Newly Enforced Rules Regarding Contaminated Loads
Date: May 30, 2018

DID YOU KNOW? A contaminated recycling load costs \$175 per ton to get rid of as opposed to \$10 per ton for a clean recycling load. When non-recyclable items (contamination) end up in the recycling loads they have the potential to turn the entire load into trash, increasing processing costs and additional service charges.

WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT CAN CONTAMINATE A LOAD?

- ◆ **PLASTIC BAGS** - plastic bags and film get tangled in machinery.
- ◆ **FOOD SOILED ITEMS** - soiled items will turn an entire load of recycling into trash (RINSE YOUR ITEMS)
- ◆ **WET PAPER**-please try to keep your recyclables dry
- ◆ **E-waste**- E-waste can be recycled but NOT CURBSIDE please bring E-waste to DPW recycling yard
- ◆ **TANGLERS**- Rubber hoses & wires can shut down an entire recycling center
- ◆ **HAZARDOUS MATERIAL**- can cause serious injury to workers

WHY THE SUDDEN CRACK-DOWN ON CONTAMINATION? In 2017 China began to limit the quantity of material it accepts for recycling and in 2018 added specific contamination limits. The significant changes are affecting the recycling industry world-wide. As a result, our focus on quality is higher than ever, as we work to ensure long-term sustainability of our recycling programs.

WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED? see flyer for examples on acceptable and non-acceptable material

Key points to keep in mind with plastic recyclables:

- ◆ **ALWAYS** look for recycling sign indicating numbers **1 or 2**
- ◆ **ALWAYS** rinse out containers (plastic, glass & aluminum).
- ◆ **NEVER** place your recyclables in plastic bags when putting out for curbside collections
- ◆ **ALL** recyclables **MUST** be in a clearly marked recycling container.
- ◆ **WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT.**

Please help join us in the battle against contamination.

**ANY CONTAMINATED RECYCLING
WILL NOT BE PICKED UP AND WILL BE LEFT CURBSIDE.**

For additional questions please contact Alexis D'Ambrosia: adambrosia@bolp.org / 973-270-2058