

Action Heroes to the Rescue: Stopping Contamination

EARTH TIPS

Presented by Altamont Education Advisory Board

Contami Nation?
Is that a place?

No, silly! **Contamination**
means the wrong thing in
the wrong place!

An example of
contamination is
food waste in the
recycle bin. Gross!



When food ends up in the recycle bin, the recycling company won't take it. So, the hard work of separating out recyclables is time wasted. And what's worse is that those things that are recyclable go to the landfill instead when they are contaminated with food waste!

Action Hero Tips:

- Throw food that can't be eaten or saved into the GREEN bin.
- Be sure to scrape out and clean off food waste before you put a recyclable in the BLUE bin.
- Make sure there is no food in the GREY landfill bin.

Why is it important to keep food waste out of the landfill?

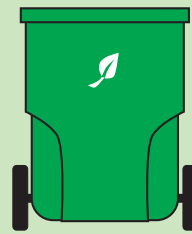
Food scraps in a landfill rot and form methane gas which contributes to climate change.

Food scraps and food-soiled paper make up the largest category in our landfill. Proper disposal at school and home means that kids can make a BIG difference and send those items to be composted instead!

Think before you throw!
Talk to someone at your school if you have questions.

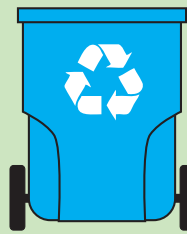
Know What Goes in Each Bin!

Use a GREEN crayon to circle each item that belongs in the green bin. Use a BLUE crayon to circle recyclables that should go in the blue bin. And use a GREY crayon to circle the items that will end up in the grey landfill bin.



Compost Bin:

peels, cores, partially eaten food that was once alive, food-soiled paper



Recycle Bin:

recyclable products such as glass, paper, metal and plastic



Landfill Bin:

Anything that doesn't go in the Green or Blue Bins.

ANSWERS: Green Compost Bin: chicken leg, pizza box, bread, twig, leaves, fries and box, egg, apple core, bacon strip, grapes and stem, pepper, tomato, onion. Blue Recycle Bin: paper bag, yogurt container, bottle — all items should be cleaned before placing in bin. Grey Landfill Bin: plastic bag, fork, What could you use instead of these items so that the landfill bin would be empty?

FOOD RESCUER FACT

More and more people every day are understanding the importance of composting.

Nationally, the composting of food in the U.S. increased from 1.84 million tons in 2013 to 2.1 million tons in 2015.



Composting turns food waste into healthy, rich soil for our gardens and farms to grow more fruits and veggies in the future!



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