

# The Gainesville Zero Waste News

## The 5 Most Frightful Items That You Might Be Putting in Your Recycling Bins

As Halloween approaches, the ghosts and ghouls aren't the only things that should send shivers down your spine. While you diligently sort through your household waste, making sure to recycle what you can, some seemingly harmless items could be lurking in your recycling bins, ready to haunt the environment. In the spirit of this spooky season, let's uncover the five most frightful items that might make their way into your recycling bins.

- 1. Plastic Bags – *Watch out!*** Plastic bags are a strict no-no for curbside recycling. If they find their way into the recycling bin, plastic bags can be ghastly when they jam up expensive sorting equipment at the recycling facility.
- 2. Plastic Clamshell Containers – *Beware!*** Like a pack of brain-eating zombies, plastic clamshell containers cause a scare whenever they show up. These lighter-weight plastic containers are not accepted for recycling.
- 3. Pizza Boxes – *On Guard!*** Grease-stained pizza boxes are not recyclable and can place a curse on other paper recyclables. However, if only the bottom of the box is tainted, the box top can be removed and recycled in your orange bin.
- 4. Cups – *Stay Clear!*** Cups of any kind (paper, plastic, foam) are taboo and can be a real beast to sort out from the good recyclables.
- 5. Styrofoam® – *Danger!*** Placing foam items in your recycle bin can contaminate other recyclables, transforming a potential treat into a dreadful trick for recycling centers.



This Halloween, as you enjoy the thrills and chills of the season, be mindful of what you're tossing into your recycling bin. To ensure that your celebrations don't result in a recycling horror story, consider reusing or donating items where possible and disposing of non-recyclable materials responsibly. By making conscious choices, you can help prevent a truly terrifying environmental nightmare from unfolding in our communities. Stay spooky, but recycle responsibly!

For more information on items that are recyclable in your curbside recycle bins, visit [gainesvillefl.gov/WhatCanBeRecycled](http://gainesvillefl.gov/WhatCanBeRecycled).