Long Beach Recycling has been Refreshed!
Whether you’re a recycling expert or just getting started, our updated guidelines make it easier to recycle right!

What’s new?
The City of Long Beach has updated our recycling guidelines to make recycling easier, safer and more beneficial for our community. The new guidelines clarify the specific types of items that should go into your recycling cart as well as those that should be disposed of as garbage.

Why does Recycling Right matter?
Non-recyclable items in the recycling cart are considered “contamination.” Contaminants keep recyclables from being recycled.

In fact, a handy rule to remember is: “If in doubt, find out.” Long Beach has lots of ways to learn more. You can review our recycling guidelines on our website, attend a workshop to learn how to Recycle Right, and even email a Recycling Specialist at the City.

If you’re still unsure, ask us your questions on social media by following @LBRecycles or email lbrecycles@longbeach.gov.

If we all follow these guidelines, we can reduce wear and tear on our recycling equipment, protect the safety of workers, and recycle more.

Updated guidelines
Check longbeach.gov/lbrecycles for printable guidelines

Paper and Cardboard? Yes!
Metal? Cans and aluminum. Yes!
Glass? Jars and bottles. Yes!
Plastics? Just recycle bottles, jugs, and tubs—no need to look for numbers.

Have questions or need more information? Visit longbeach.gov/lbrecycles or call 562-570-2876
Ask an Expert!

Waste Diversion and Recycling Officer Erin Rowland explains why the City has made updates to the recycling program.

Why refresh recycling? And... why now?

The Department of Public Works has made strategic updates to the City’s curbside recycling program. This was done in response to unprecedented global changes occurring within the recycling processing industry.

Historically, the United States sent nearly 70% of our recycled materials overseas. Starting in 2018, new recycling policies were created that restricted our ability to deliver materials. These new policies continue to have significant impacts to the global recycling system.

As a result, many cities across the United States are modifying their recycling guidelines of what can and cannot be recycled based on today’s standards. However, we still have to contend with quality. We need to focus on preventing contaminants, or unrecyclable materials, from going into our recycling containers because contamination prevents recyclables from being recycled.

What does this mean for Long Beach residents?

Long Beach residents have an important role to play for our community to succeed. We need to do our best to recycle right—capturing all of the recyclables in the purple cart while making sure that contaminants stay out.

The updated guidelines have no impact on your recyclables being collected. You will see no changes to your scheduled pick up day(s). Your recyclables will continue to be collected for processing.

Where can you learn more?

If you are unsure about what can or cannot be recycled, you can email us at lbrecycles@longbeach.gov.

Visit the LB Recycles website at longbeach.gov/lbrecycles, which is packed full of information about recycling. Or, follow @LBRecycles on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for regular updates and information.

Erin Rowland
Waste Diversion & Recycling Officer
City of Long Beach

Erin Rowland is the Waste Diversion and Recycling Officer for the City of Long Beach. As a Long Beach native, she is ecstatic to serve the City in this role. Erin holds a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies and Geography from the University of Oregon and a master’s degree in Public Administration from Portland State University. Erin is passionate about creating new solutions to manage material we’ve historically considered waste.
Long Beach Recycling has Potential

Potential Industries Material Recovery Facility (MRF) keeps recycling local, creating green jobs and generating economic value for our community.

Powered by people

Potential Industries (Potential) has a dedicated team of recycling professionals who work hard every day to help Long Beach and other cities achieve their recycling goals and keep their communities clean. Potential employs over 100 hard-working recycling experts in a wide range of critical positions, from sorting to operations to sales and marketing. It takes a lot of people working together to sort, bale, and transport the thousands of tons of recyclable materials that are processed each month!

Home grown with a broad reach

Potential has been based in Wilmington since 1975 but has deep roots in Long Beach as well. Potential has been sorting and marketing Long Beach curbside recyclables for over 20 years. Potential is a local recycler but is also a leading exporter from the Port of Long Beach and LA, providing recyclable materials to mills in North America and abroad. Potential’s focus on local, domestic, and global markets allows them to create value for Long Beach residents by transporting recyclable materials to end markets where they can achieve their highest and best use.

Future focused

Potential has made significant investments in their sorting technology over the past few years. In 2019, Potential completed a major upgrade to their Material Recovery Facility (MRF), creating one of the most advanced, efficient recycling facilities in California. They continue to update their MRF with state-of-the-art equipment and sorting techniques. As recycling markets become more volatile, Potential remains a leader in the industry by keeping cities such as Long Beach informed about changes in the domestic and global markets.

Learn more

RECYCLE
EMPTY • CLEAN • DRY

Plastic Bottles, Jugs and Tubs
Metal Cans and Aluminum
Paper and Cardboard
Glass Bottles and Jars

Do not put items in plastic bags.

Lids on!
Flatten boxes!

Learn more at longbeach.gov/lbrecycles