



## How to Help Reduce Recycling Contamination

- ♻️ - Reach out to the Department of the Environment's Recycling Section Inspectors for help and suggestions regarding the new Recycling program.
- ♻️ - Make recycling containers **stand out** from the trash containers.
- ♻️ - **Clearly Mark Recycling Containers! Use stickers and other signage.**
- ♻️ - **The better the signage, the *less* chance for contamination!**
- ♻️ - Aim resources at the children in the community. Children usually take out the trash. Most children also already know about recycling from the schools.
- ♻️ - Use a special event/celebration, for example "Residents Day", to introduce or add to the Recycling Program.
- ♻️ - Word of mouth is one of the best ways to inform people of recycling. Be creative, use alternative methods to disseminate information.
- ♻️ - Use staff to spread the word about the Recycling Program.
- ♻️ - Post signs in the office and in the hall ways.
- ♻️ - Ask residents if they know about the Recycling Program and how it works.
- ♻️ - Enlist the support of residents that are "community oriented" to help with providing information about the new recycling program.
- ♻️ - Have the maintenance staff and/or cleaning crews check all recycling containers on a daily bases to remove obvious contaminants.

😊 - **The recycling program will only be as good as you and your staff want it to be!**



## What Is Needed To Be In Compliance

- 1) - Must offer residents recycling collection in the same manner and with the same convenience as trash collection.
- 2) - There must be clear and concise signage on the recycling containers.
  - A) - *The better the signage, the less chance there is for contamination!*
  - B) - *Add a sticker showing what **can** be recycled.*
  - C) - *Stay with Simple Signage. If using terminology such as "Commingle" or "Single-Stream" also describe what that means, such as mixed recycling.*
  - D) - *Make recycling containers stand out! Go recycling sticker crazy!*
  - E) - *Have signage seen from all sides of the container. The collector doesn't always put the containers back the same way.*
- 3) – The “Annual Recycling Report” and “Annual Tonnage Report” must be completed and returned each year.
  - A) - *The Annual Recycling Report is an update on the complex, management and management company's information.*
  - B) - *The Annual Tonnage Report indicates the total number of pounds of recyclable materials collected from the complex during the **previous year**. This form is very easy to complete. If you are NOT sure how to complete the form, please call the Recycling Section Inspection staff for assistance.*

[Please contact the Recycling Section at \(301\) 883-3635 if you need help or have questions related to your Recycling Program.](#)