

Hoosiers Recycle Right

COMMON CONTAMINANTS

These items should NOT be placed in the recycle bin.



Soft Plastics



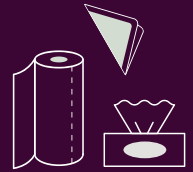
Greasy pizza boxes



Food & liquid



Food containers & cups



Paper towels & napkins

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How empty, clean, and dry do recyclables have to be?

They do not have to be sparkling clean, but there should not be much food residue.

Where does IU's recycling go?

Republic Services in Indianapolis, where it is sorted and then sent to manufacturers who use the product to turn it in to something else.

It has a recycle symbol on it; why can't I recycle it?

A recycle symbol means the product is recyclable somewhere, but not necessarily at our local recycling center. IU's regional recycling center can only process aluminum, steel, plastics #1 and #2 (the most common plastics), paper without plastic or wax coating, cardboard, and glass. Items smaller than a credit card cannot be filtered by the processing machines—leave them out of the recycle bin or, in the case of caps on bottles, leave them on the bottle. Because plastic cups, including takeout beverage cups, are usually made of thin plastic, these sometimes get crushed and cannot be sorted by processing machines like more robust bottles and jugs can, so unfortunately sometimes plastic cups are not recycled. This is why reducing our plastic use and reusing are such important steps before recycling.

Can I compost in the residence halls?

Currently, composting is only offered in the dining halls, but we hope to expand our composting program in the future. Outside of the dining halls, all compostable foodware must be discarded in the landfill bins.

11 WAYS TO REDUCE WASTE AND REUSE

- Donate items instead of trashing them
- When you can, buy in bulk or purchase items that use little/reusable/recyclable packaging
- Shop IU Surplus for furniture, office supplies, and more
- Buy, sell, or trade textbooks and items on IU Classifieds (search on One.IU)
- Reuse jars and other containers for food storage
- Replace paper plates and napkins with washable dishes and cloth napkins/towels
- Buy notebooks that are made with recycled content
- Browse reurbished electronics before purchasing new technology
- Instead of purchasing new clothes, swap items with friends and mend minor defects
- Use a reusable water bottle and fill at one of the hundreds of refill stations on campus
- Print double-sided

**For more tips & resources,
use this QR code!**

