

A vertical rectangular area on the right side of the page features a soft, watercolor-style background. The colors are a mix of light green, teal, and various shades of blue, creating a textured, painterly effect. The text is overlaid on this background.

All About

Recycling on O'ahu

By:

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With help from the Kōkua Hawai'i
Foundation

Aloha,

Thank you so much for joining my mission to educate the public about proper recycling! My name is Esther, and I go to Punahou School. I created this booklet with help from Jennifer Milholen of the Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation as a part of my Girl Scout Silver Award project!

As I was researching, I discovered that contamination or putting the wrong items into the recycling bin is a significant problem here in Hawai'i. The majority of contamination takes place because people are unsure of what they should recycle or what they shouldn't. Luckily, there is a simple solution... educating the public! Through the creation of this booklet, I hope to teach people like you about recycling here on O'ahu. Together, we can help prevent contamination and spread the truth about recycling here on O'ahu!

**Mahalo,
Esther**

Why should we even recycle?

Here are 10 Reasons.

Recycling...



Boosts our economy

By selling our recyclable materials to other countries, millions of dollars are made all across the US!

Creates jobs

Many hands are needed to make the recycling process happen.

Reduces waste

Think of all of that recyclable material prevented from harming Hawaii's delicate ecosystem and filling up our already full landfills!

Is good for the environment

Less trash creates a healthier environment for each one of us.

Saves energy

Recycling one ton of aluminum cans conserves around 1,655 gallons of gasoline that could be used to create energy!

Conserves landfill space

Hawai'i is an island chain with limited space, so one day, we'll run out of places to put our trash. We can help to reduce our waste by recycling.

Helps to slow climate change

Did you know that using recycled aluminum rather than new materials can reduce air pollution by 95%? That's a lot!

Conserves resources

You'll save around 24 trees just by using one ton of paper made from 100% recycled materials instead of one ton of paper made from virgin materials.

Protects wildlife

This is a big one. By recycling, you'll save trash from polluting animal habitats such as oceans, forests, and wetlands. This is especially important in Hawai'i as we are dubbed the "Endangered Species Capital of the World."

Is good for our future

Let's save future generations resources, space, energy, money, and more just by recycling!

3 general recycling rules that you should follow.

#1: When in doubt, throw it out!

If you think it doesn't belong or you're not sure if it does, please don't put it into the recycling bin. Better yet, check opala.org or this booklet if you have any questions! Sadly, many people attempt to recycle, but they end up putting non-recyclables (contaminants) into the recycling. This is known as wish-cycling. Contaminants may seem harmless, but they are difficult to sort out and can cause actual recyclables to be thrown away!

#2: Don't bag your recyclables!

This is a huge issue with recycling. Plastic bags get caught in machinery and can break them, costing companies thousands of dollars a year in damage and lost production time. We don't want that happening.

#3: All recyclables must be clean.

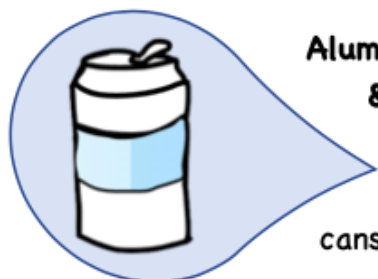
Wash them out before you throw them in! It's not that hard to do and it makes it easier for recyclables to be made into brand-new products.

That brings us to the question:

How *do* we recycle?

Well, you're about to find out!

Note: Although recycling is great, remember that it's the last "R" in the 3 Rs. Always try to Reduce and Reuse first! Check out pages 13 and 14 for more information.



**Aluminum Cans
& Bimetals:**

Just rinse! Crushed
cans are okay.

Glass Bottles & Jars:

Remember to rinse
and remove all lids!
Labels can stay on.



Paper:

You can recycle...

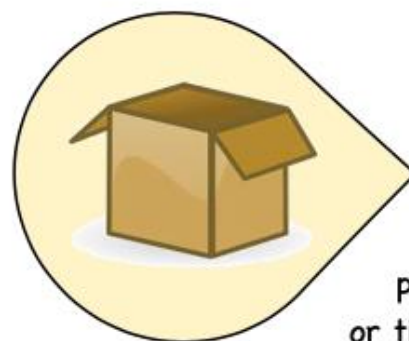
- Newspaper
- Office paper
- Paper bags



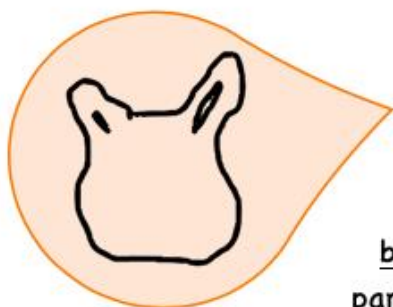
You shouldn't recycle...

- Magazines
- Glossy/waxed items
- Lined paper
- Sticky notes
- Receipts

**Corrugated
Cardboard:**



Flatten. Don't recycle
food-stained boxes
(e.g. pizza boxes) or
paperboard (e.g. cereal
or tissue boxes).



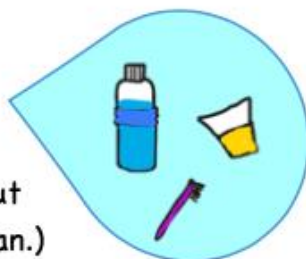
Plastic Bags:

Please don't put these in the recycling bin! Instead, bring them to a participating store. Also,

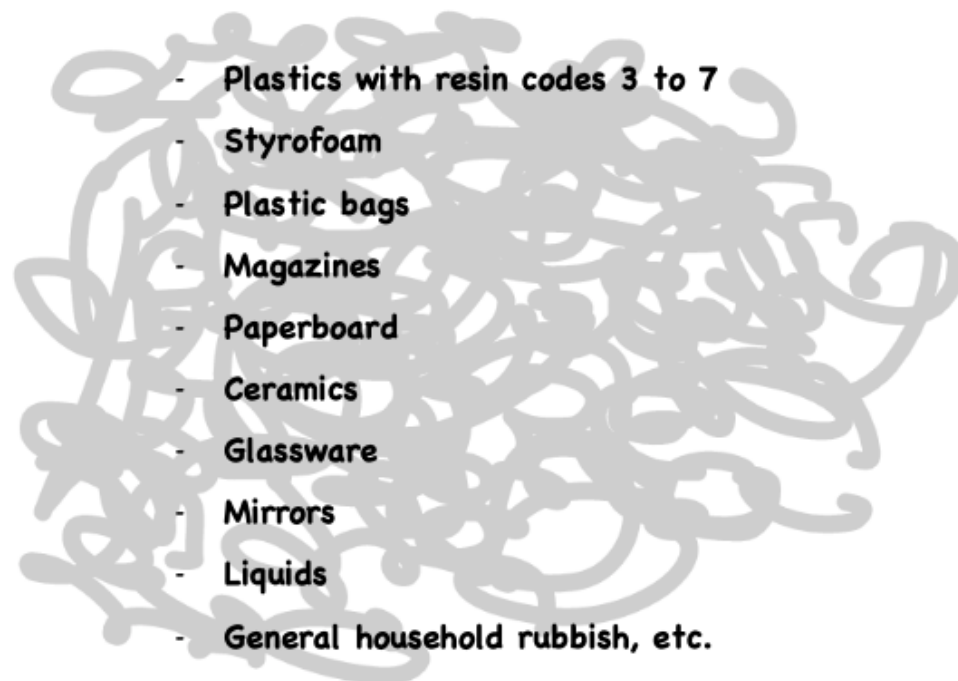
remember to place your recyclables in the recycling bin loose and *not wrapped in a plastic bag* (see page 4).

Plastic Containers:

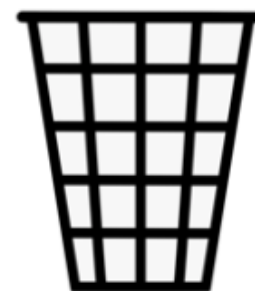
Only recycle plastics with the resin codes one and two! (See pages 10-12 to learn about resin codes and what they mean.) Make sure to rinse items and remove bottle caps and lids before recycling.



Items that should stay out of the recycling:



- Plastics with resin codes 3 to 7
- Styrofoam
- Plastic bags
- Magazines
- Paperboard
- Ceramics
- Glassware
- Mirrors
- Liquids
- General household rubbish, etc.



Resin Codes and What They Mean

The purpose of resin codes is to tell us which kind of plastic an item is made out of. Read on to find out more about the seven different resin codes and if they are recyclable on O'ahu or not!

Recyclable on O'ahu



PETE/PET (polyethylene terephthalate)
PETE or PET can include soda and water bottles, and some food containers.



HDPE (high-density polyethylene)
HDPE can be found in milk jugs, laundry detergent bottles, and shampoo bottles.

Not Recyclable on O'ahu



PVC (polyvinyl chloride)
PVC (#3) contains chlorine which is toxic to humans. PVC is found in PVC pipes, shower curtains and other common household items.



LDPE (low-density polyethylene)
LDPE is commonly found in plastic films such as cling wrap, bread bags, and some plastic bags.



PP (polypropylene)
PP can be found in medicine, syrup, and ketchup bottles, yogurt containers, grab-and-go deli containers, straws, and even furniture.



PS (polystyrene)

Polystyrene can be found in many different kinds of foam products such as egg cartons, foam cups, packing material, and take-out containers.



OTHER

You may be wondering, *what does "other" mean anyway?* Well, the group "other" contains all of the plastics that don't fit into the previous six groups. Plastics in this category include compostable plastics, sometimes marked with a zero (0), as well as mixtures of plastics. Some examples of resin code number 7 are compostable utensils, fiberglass, and acrylic.

The First Two R's

As I've mentioned before, recycling is wonderful, but **Reducing** and **Reusing** are *magnificent*. In this section, you'll learn about several different ways to reduce and reuse. Let's get started!

#1: USE REUSABLE WATERBOTTLES

Every hour, Americans alone throw out 2.5 million plastic water bottles. That's a lot. Bottled water isn't any cleaner than tap water and can even be dirtier! Let's stick with reusable water bottles, please.

#2: DON'T BUY ITEMS WITH UNNECESSARY AMOUNTS OF PACKAGING

#3: BUY LOCAL

It's good for the environment, your carbon footprint, and your health!

#4: UPCYCLE WOULD-BE TRASH

Upcycling is a great way to reuse trash and turn it into something practical or fun. There are hundreds of creative and inspirational videos online. Search some up today!

#5: AVOID USING SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

A great first step to doing this is by using your own reusable utensils and straws! You may think that one more straw won't make a difference, but that's what *millions* of people around the world think as well. Those millions of plastic utensils and straws do add up!

#6: REUSE OLD CONTAINERS

All you have to do is wash it out and use it again. Easy-peasy!

#7: BRING YOUR OWN REUSABLE BAGS WHEN YOU SHOP

No need for single-use plastic bags!

#8: PROVIDE YOUR OWN TAKEOUT CONTAINERS

#9: BUY USED ITEMS

Why should we be making brand-new items when there are already hundreds of almost-new ones out there?

#10: UNSUBSCRIBE FROM ALL OF THOSE JUNK MAILING LISTS

Junk mail can be annoying and inconvenient in addition to being a big waste of paper. Unsubscribing from these mailing lists will benefit you *and* the environment!

7 Fascinating Facts About Recycling!

1. Recycling one aluminum can will save enough energy to power a TV for up to three hours!
2. Since 2010, America's recycling rate hasn't risen above 36%.
3. Aluminum can be recycled an infinite amount of times without wearing down.
4. Worldwide, waste is expected to double in less than 15 years!
5. Every three months, Americans throw out enough aluminum to build the United States' entire commercial air fleet.
6. Making paper from recycled material reduces the related contribution to air pollution by 95%!
7. Recycling one ton of cardboard saves 46 gallons of oil.

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