

**Module 8: A Drive Through the Community**  
**Topic 2 Content: Conserving and Recycling**

**Introduction**

**Conserving**

- Heating & Cooling**
- Water**
- Lighting & Appliances**
- Cooking**

**Recycling**

- Finding a Facility**
- Looking**
- Sorting**
- Storing**
- Preparing**
- Grocery Bags**
- Proper Disposal**

Click each of the terms to learn more about conserving and recycling

Sometimes making a change for the greater good seems like a far-fetched idea. Remember that change has to start with small steps. A great way to start making a difference is with recycling and conservation efforts in your own home.

Click to learn more about recycling and conserving.

## Module 8: A Drive Through the Community

### Topic 2 Content: Conserving and Recycling

#### Conserving: Heating and Cooling



#### **Conserving: Heating & Cooling**

- Keep windows, doors, and other openings closed tightly.
- Close fireplace vents when not in use.
- Inspect weather-stripping around windows and doors.
- Use dark shades on windows.
- Keep the air-conditioning at a constant temperature.
- Turn the heat down at bedtime or when leaving the house.

Keep windows, doors, and other openings closed tightly when using heating and air conditioning. This includes closing fireplace vents when they are not in use. Inspect the weather-stripping around windows and doors to be sure that air is not seeping in or out.

Use dark shades on windows to keep the sun's heat out in the summer and insulated window coverings during the winter months. During the summer months, keep the air-conditioning at a constant temperature. When using a heating unit, turn it down at bedtime or when leaving the house.

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#### Conserving: Water



When washing clothes, try to use warm or cold water. Hot water requires the use of a lot of energy. When brushing your teeth, washing dishes, or watering plants, do not let the water run. Turn the faucet off for the period of time that you are not using water. If you have any leaky faucets or running toilets, fix them so that water is not constantly running.

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### Conserving: Lighting and Appliances



Changing your bulbs to fluorescent lighting cuts down on energy use and is actually more economical as well. Turn lights and appliances off in rooms you are not occupying. Unplug any appliances that are not in use.

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#### Conserving: Cooking



When possible, use your stovetop instead of the oven. Ovens use a large amount of energy to heat. For smaller meals, you may even want to consider using a toaster oven.

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#### Recycling: Finding a Facility



Recycling is the treatment of waste so it can be reused to create new products. Recycling reduces the waste placed in dumps and landfills. Waste runoff from landfills is harmful to the surrounding environment, and burning waste pollutes the air.

Some communities offer curbside recycling services. If your community does not, do some research to find a recycling center that will take your recyclable items. Some communities have drop-off centers.

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#### Recycling: Looking



#### **Recycling: Looking**

- Look for recycling symbols on items.
- Most items are easy to identify, but it is best to double check.

Look for recycling symbols on items you believe are recyclable. Most items are easy to identify, but it is always best to double check.

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#### Recycling: Sorting

### Recycling: Sorting

- Have separate containers for paper, plastics, and aluminum.
- Most types of paper can be recycled: white office paper, newspapers, cardboard, phonebooks, most mail, and mixed paper.
- Do not recycle food contaminated containers, laminated materials, waxed cardboard and juice containers, and fast-food wrappers.
- Glass bottles should not be mixed with other types of glass.
- Do not mix aluminum with other metals.
- Recyclable plastics are all labeled, because different plastic types cannot be mixed.
- Check with your local recycling agency to see what types of plastic are accepted.

Sort items, and place them into proper containers. For example, have a separate container for recyclable paper, plastics, and aluminum. Follow these guidelines.

Most types of paper materials can be recycled. White office paper is the highest grade of recyclable paper, but many other forms are accepted. Newspapers, cardboard, phonebooks, most mail, and mixed paper can all be recycled. Papers that cannot be recycled are food contaminated containers, laminated materials, waxed cardboard and juice containers, and fast-food wrappers.

Glass bottles should not be mixed with other types of glass, such as mirrors, light bulbs, or ceramics. Do not mix aluminum with other metals like steel cans.

Every plastic material that can be recycled is labeled, because plastic types cannot be mixed. Even the smallest bit of the wrong type of plastic can ruin the whole batch. Be sure to check with your local recycling agency to see what types of plastic are accepted and only place those types in your bin.



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#### Recycling: Storing

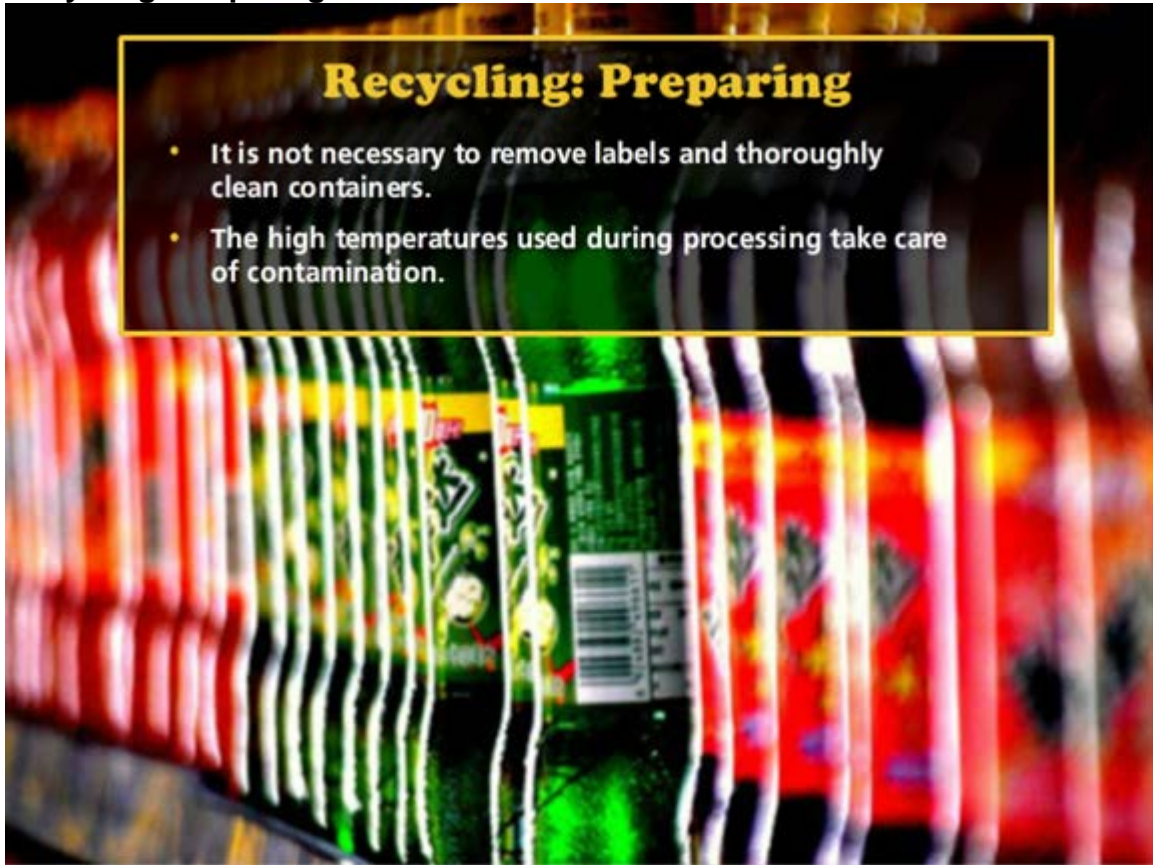


Because you are storing recyclable items until you take them to a facility or have them picked up, it is more sanitary to rinse out the items so that food and other chemicals are not sitting around.

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#### Recycling: Preparing



It is not necessary to remove labels and thoroughly clean containers. The high temperatures that these items go through for processing take care of any contamination you think the labels or substances may cause.

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#### Recycling: Grocery Bags



#### **Recycling: Grocery Bags**

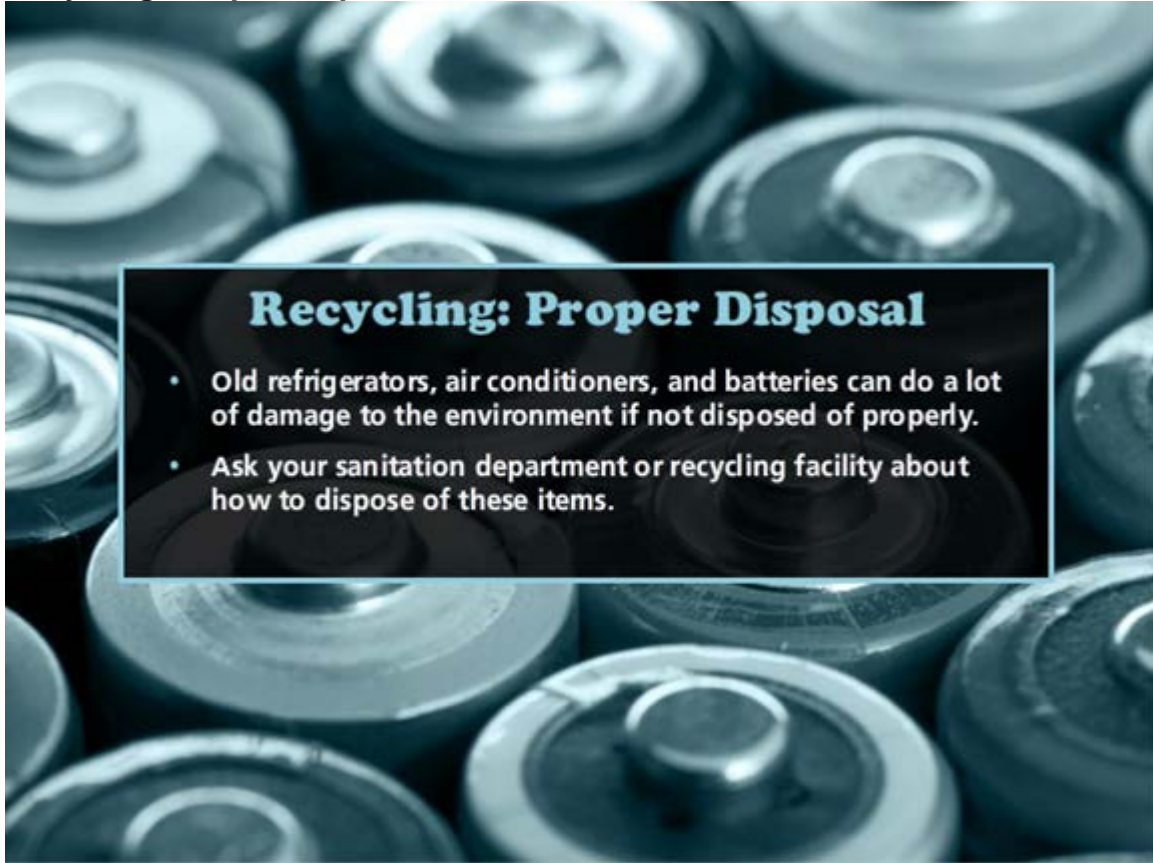
- Many stores provide receptacles to collect plastic grocery store bags for recycling.
- Bags can ruin farm crops, harm animals, and clutter landfills.
- This is a great step towards companies doing their part.

Many grocery stores are now providing receptacles to collect plastic grocery bags for recycling. Because plastic bags can ruin farm crops, harm animals, and clutter landfills, this type of collection is a great step toward companies doing their part to help the environment as well.

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#### Recycling: Proper Disposal



Items such as old refrigerators, air conditioners, and batteries can do a lot of damage to the environment if not disposed of properly. Ask your sanitation department or recycling facility about how to dispose of these items.