

Redhawks, let's take care of this place.

		
 All unwanted food can be composted. Because CVU's compost is sent to an industrial-scale, commercial facility, you can throw meat and dairy in about 	Recyclables must be clean and dry. Dry means empty.	 Most wrappers, cartons, drink boxes and "waxed" papers are made of mixed materials that cannot be separated.
Napkins and paper towels used for wiping up food and beverages may be composted. If you use them with anything that's not edible -- like with cleaning products or to wipe your nose -- they should go in the trash instead.  	 Plastic and aluminum beverage containers can be recycled as long as they are clean and dry -- that means <i>totally</i> empty. Put the lids back on empty plastic bottles and they can be recycled too! Best practices for plastic bottles are to rinse, re-cap, and then recycle.	  Black plastic and soft plastics like Ziploc bags cannot be recycled locally, even though the packaging has chasing arrows and is "technically" recyclable. Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) tells us they only can accept recyclables if they can find someone to buy it from them (they are a business, after all) or if it won't clog up their sorting. So for now, black and soft plastics get sent to the landfill.
	There's such a thing as "wishful" recycling. We put stuff in the recycling bin because we <i>wish</i> it could be recycled. But contaminated recycling batches end up getting sent to the landfill. 💔	 Plastic utensils and any small plastic lids not attached to a bottle should go in the trash. They aren't 2" tall and 2" wide, so they'll clog the sorting machine at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Williston. That's no good.
	 If you get every single bit of food off these so they're clean -- yes, that even means using your napkin to wipe off the last smear of peanut butter or sauce -- plastic food containers and lids like these are recyclable.	 Food residue at the bottom of a recyclable container or on a recyclable lid renders it contaminated. If you can't rinse or wipe it out completely, throw it out. Batches of recycling even 0.5% impure are being rejected and sent to the landfill. That's tragic.

Sources: Albeck-ripka, Livia. "6 Things You're Recycling Wrong." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 29 May 2018, www.nytimes.com/2018/05/29/climate/recycling-wrong-mistakes.html and "The Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD)." CSWD, 2020, <https://cswd.net/>.