



## Recycling Frequently Asked Questions

### **How is the City bringing back recycling?**

The City has created a new and improved recycling program called DFB Recycling Version 2.0. This new recycling program will focus on bringing recycling back to its basics, and keeping it clean.

DFB Recycling Version 2.0 will recyclables will consist of: cans, paper, flattened cardboard, plastic bottles, containers and jugs, as well as glass bottles and containers. All containers should be rinsed and dried. The new program will no longer tolerate contaminants like plastic bags, pizza boxes and other food-contaminated items. The City will be regularly monitoring collection routes for these items.

**Know the Recycling Rules. Remember, just because it can be recycled, doesn't mean it is in our program. If it is not in our curbside program, IT IS CONSIDERED CONTAMINATION.**

### **When will recycling collection resume?**

The City will resume curbside residential recycling collection on Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **How can I help?**

Residents should only recycle items that are included in the City's new recycling program. Eliminating contaminants like plastic bags and pizza boxes is the way to create a more sustainable program. Check out [www.DFB.city/recycling](http://www.DFB.city/recycling) for details.

Keep watching the City's social media feeds for even more tips and tricks to becoming a smart recycler.

### **Can I still put garbage in my blue bin come September 3, 2018?**

No. Recycling routes will resume starting September 3. Your recycling collection day will be the same as it was prior to the suspension. **THIS MEANS NO MORE GARBAGE IN YOUR RECYCLING BIN.** Only recyclables that are on the program list are allowed in the bin, anything else is considered contamination.



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### **What is recycling contamination and why does it matter?**

Recycling contamination is when incorrect materials are recycled. Some of the most common contaminants are plastic bags and materials with food residue like pizza boxes. With the advent of single stream recycling and “wish-cycling,” (where people hope something is recyclable and throw it in) recycling contamination has increased significantly. Contamination causes an increase in the cost of processing recyclables and decreases the value of the material, which ultimately makes it more costly to recycle. The most recent composition study showed that Deerfield Beach’s contamination rate was over 50% before the program’s temporary suspension.

### **What caused this change?**

Historically, China has been the U.S.'s main importer of recyclable materials. However, late last year China imposed a ban on materials that do not meet stringent contamination standards. Contamination has always been a problem, but it has become more of an issue with these changes in the market. Additionally, over the past several years, the overall value of recyclables has steadily declined.

DFB Recycling Version 2.0 is aimed at tackling these challenges and becoming a more sustainable and beneficial program for Deerfield Beach.

### **How can I do more to save my planet?**

- Say no to single use plastic like straws, bags, and take-out containers.
- Visit the [Cleaner Greener Deerfield Beach page](#) to learn how you can participate in a beach or neighborhood cleanup.
- Check out Stormy and the [City’s stormwater campaign](#) on ways to be stormwater smart!
- Conserve water at your home by participating in the [Broward Water Partnership](#) and installing free low-flow water fixtures.
- Reduce your use of plastic altogether.
- Consider composting. For more information and to learn how just visit the [Cleaner Greener Deerfield Beach page](#).