

# RECYCLABLES FACILITY: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: DOES THE MACHINERY EVER GET JAMMED WITH MATERIAL? DOES THE MACHINERY EVER NEED TO BE QUICKLY SHUT DOWN?

A: The machinery can get jammed, especially with “tanglers” like hoses and loose film plastic. However, routine maintenance is performed several times throughout the day to help prevent any potential jams. In case of a jam or another incident requiring facility down, there are emergency kill switches located throughout the facility that are readily accessible by every employee. The control room operator not only monitors all operations and machinery, but has the ability put the facility at a complete standstill if needed.

Q: HOW OFTEN ARE ITEMS MISSED AS YOU SORT BASED ON MATERIAL TYPE?

A: Because we are relying on people and machines and we need to move the material through the facility quickly, target items can be missed. Additionally, if things like a PET water bottles are crushed, our machines cannot properly identify them and they sometime slip through the cracks..

Q: SHOULD I LEAVE THE CAPS ON MY BOTTLES/CONTAINERS?

A: Where the container and lid material is the same type of material, the caps/lids should stay on. For example, plastic caps on plastic bottles/containers should stay ON because smaller plastics are less likely to be recovered. On the other hand, where metal lids are on glass jars, for example, these metal lids should be removed from glass jars because these are two different material types.

Q: DO FOOD CONTAINERS NEED TO BE RINSED OUT COMPLETELY?

A: Food containers must be free from all food and liquid. This may require rinsing for liquids, wiping and/or scraping for materials, sticky/gummy materials that are more solid (e.g. yogurt, peanut butter, etc.) to ensure the container is properly prepared for recycling.

Watch our **Keep It Clean YouTube series** to learn more.

Q: I'M NOT SURE WHAT IS OR ISN'T RECYCLABLE ANYMORE. WHAT DO I DO WITH MATERIAL I AM NOT SURE ABOUT?

A: Please refer to your local GreenWaste Recovery **sorting guidance**.

It is vital that your recyclables are CLEAN and DRY if you place them in your BLUE recycling container as moisture gets fibers wet (e.g. paper, cardboard) and can render them too moist to recover and turn into new paper products.

Lucky for Portola Valley, Woodside and Los Altos Hills, if you toss a recyclable in with your Mixed Compostables, that material still has the opportunity to be recovered.

