

# RECYCLING BOARD

## Background

For many of us, recycling has become a part of our daily lives. We know that recycling helps conserve natural resources conserves space in our landfills. But did you know that recycling also conserves energy and water and helps to reduce air and water pollution?

For example, production of recycled paper uses 80% less water and 65% less energy, and produces 95% less air pollution than virgin paper production. For every four-foot stack of paper you recycle, you save a tree.

But recycling can be confusing! Did you know that recycling rules vary based on your location, hauler, and type of residence? Because of the disparity, volunteers are often confused or uninformed on what can actually go into their recycling bags. Styrofoam, hot drink cups, and aluminum foil are amongst the most commonly questioned items.

Below are instructions on how you can create your own recycling board to display at your cleanup site.

## Supplies

- Poster board (at least 19"x24")
- Velcro or heavy-duty tape
- Examples of trash and recyclables, at least five of each



## Instructions

**Step One:** Gather items that can be used as samples of recyclable items and trash. It is best to select items that would be most commonly found at your site and/or are the most confusing to volunteers. Reference the links below to determine exactly what items belong in each category.

[Carlsbad](#)  
[Chula Vista](#)  
[Coronado](#)  
[Del Mar](#)  
[El Cajon](#)  
[Encinitas](#)

[Escondido](#)  
[Imperial Beach](#)  
[La Mesa](#)  
[Lemon Grove](#)  
[National City](#)  
[Oceanside](#)

[Poway](#)  
[\(City of\) San Diego](#)  
[San Marcos](#)  
[Santee](#)  
[Solana Beach](#)  
[Vista](#)

**Step Two:** Draw a bold line down the center of the poster board. Label each side of the board to represent what is recyclable and what is not. If you'd like, make each half of the board a different color to make the sides more distinct.

**Step Three:** If you'd like this board to be reusable for future events or be used as a game, use Velcro pieces to adhere each item to the appropriate side of the board. If you'd like this to serve solely as a reference for volunteers, use heavy-duty tape to place each item on the board.

**Step Four:** Bring your new recycling board to the event and invite the volunteers to test their knowledge of recycling rules for your cleanup site. Be sure to emphasize that your recycling rules apply to whichever community you are in and that it may differ from what is permissible in their own blue curbside bins at home.