

UCI Recycling: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What are the recycling rules at UCI? Are they the same on campus as off campus?

If its plastic, metal or paper, it can be recycled. If it contains food, just clean it out and it can be recycled. If it contains liquid, just pour it out and it can be recycled. It's your choice; make the green one!

On campus, we can recycle a lot more items than most places off campus. For instance, you can't recycle milk cartons off campus, because it has a waxy outside, but you can recycle them on campus. All of campus housing is subject to UCI recycling rules.

2. How does UCI rank in its recycling capabilities?

UCI is a leader in sustainable waste management. In 2004, the campus diverted 14% of the waste from landfill; today in 2015 we divert 82% through reusing, recycling, and composting. This means that only 18% of all campus waste goes to landfill.

Our goal is to achieve the UCOP Zero Waste mandate of diverting 95% of our waste by 2020.

3. What does comingled recycling mean? Why do I have to separate white paper from the comingled bin?

The comingled bin is used to recycle all recyclable items except for white paper. On campus, there is a separate bin for paper recycling that goes to a specialized paper recycling plant. This plant then creates a high quality paper product.

4. Can milk cartons, pizza boxes, plastic food container, and Starbucks cups be recycled?

Nothing can be recycled unless it is both clean and dry!

- Milk carton and pizza boxes: Yes they can at UCI!
- Plastic food containers: Yes just wipe off the food that is inside them.
- Egg cartons: Yes if they are made of paper (but not Styrofoam).
- Starbucks cups: Yes, once the drink is dumped out, you can put into comingled recyclable bin.



5. What should I do if there is only one trash can?

Walk a bit further and look for the blue recycling bin. Recycling and landfill bins are placed almost everywhere on campus.

6. What color are the recycling bins?

On UCI campus, the blue lid bins are ones for recycling. Remember, to be green, use blue.

7. If I see a filled trash can, whom should I call?

You can call Facilities Management Service Desk at: **(949) 824-544**

8. What is compostable?

Food waste is almost all compostable. This includes paper napkins, paper plates, coffee grounds, and coffee filters.

9. Can we compost on campus?

Yes, we compost in all the campus dining halls and restaurants. We will also be getting composting bins at the Student Center in the near future.

You can also request a composting bin for your dorm or office, however, UCI does not pick up your composting outside the above mentioned location. You have to take it out yourself on a bi-weekly basis. For more information about getting a bin and how to maintain it, please contact: ucirecycles@uci.edu

10. Should I use Styrofoam?

No—Styrofoam can be neither recycled nor composted. When people burn them, huge amount of toxic is released.

11. How can I get a guest speaker to come to my club meeting or class?

You can contact: ucirecycles@uci.edu

12. How can I volunteer for trash talking?

You can volunteer yourself or your club by contacting: ucirecycles@uci.edu



13. How do bottle-filling hydration stations contribute to our recycling program?

Reusable bottles are a much more sustainable option than plastic bottles—it takes 3 liters of water to produce just 1 liter of bottled water!

Annually, UCI's bottle-filling stations save an average of 1.3 million plastic bottles! This means that 504,000 gallons of water is saved, and 37 tons of plastic is avoided!

14. Why do we recycle?

Recycling is the Earth-friendly choice. Here at UCI, we save an average of 13,000 metric tons of material each year through our recycling program. Recycling is an integral component towards achieving sustainability!

Still have a question? Feel free to contact ucirecycles@uci.edu

Thank you for your interest in UCI's Recycling Program!



UCI Recycling Chart

RECYCLE

Paper:

White and colored paper
Copy paper
Stationary/letterhead
Envelopes
Junk mail
Newspaper
Magazines/catalogs
Scratch paper
Telephone books
Computer paper
Crayon drawings
Wrapping paper



Cardboard:

Cardboard boxes
Cereal Boxes
Tissue Boxes
Clean food boxes
Soda/beer cartons
Egg cartons (paper fiber)
Paper bag
Gift boxes (paper fiber)
Place flattened cardboard next to
dumpsters



Metal:

Aluminum soda cans
Aluminum beer cans
Food, fruit, vegetable, soup cans
Metal hangers
Foil

Glass:

Juice bottles
Beer, wine liquor bottles

Type 1 & 2 plastic

Clean food boxes
Plastic water, soda, vegetable oil
bottles
Condiment bottles
Plastic laundry jugs
Shampoo, lotion bottles

Note: Only clean and dry items can be recycled, so wash the food off or finish the drink, and it can be recycled in comingled bins.

COMPOST

Food waste
Yard waste
Milk cartons
Used tissue
Compostable disposable cups and dinnerware



LANDFILL

Plastic bags
Rubber bands
Styrofoam
Plastic Utensils

