



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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**Q: What is TAKE5?**

A: **TAKE5** was developed by the City of Fort Lauderdale to improve the recycling collection program by eliminating contamination and increase the quality of collected materials. This helps to keep the costs to our City as low as possible. Globally and locally, contamination is a major issue of concern and now it is our time to act and do our part in Fort Lauderdale by recycling only the 5 acceptable items:

- Paper
- Metal Cans
- Cardboard
- Plastic Bottles and Containers
- Glass Containers

**Q: When does the TAKE5 campaign start? How long will it last?**

A: The **TAKE5** campaign is expected to start November 2020 and will continue throughout 2021.

**Q: How will neighbors be notified?**

A: All neighbors that receive solid waste and recycling collection services throughout the City of Fort Lauderdale will receive an informational card in October 2020 announcing the program. The card will provide a handy list of the acceptable items and

some of the major cart contaminants. Click [here](#) to view **TAKE5** mailer.

**Q: How will the TAKE5 program work?**

A: For 3 consecutive weeks, City of Fort Lauderdale employees and Green Your Routine volunteers will be checking the contents of blue recycling carts placed curbside in specific neighborhoods on their scheduled recycling day. Recycling carts that do not have any contamination will be given a “Good Job” tag.

Recycling carts containing garbage and non-recyclable materials will be tagged to identify the non-recyclable materials and will not be serviced. The non-recyclable materials must be removed from the cart in order to be serviced on the next scheduled recycling day. Carts found to have contamination after 3 inspections may be subject to immediate removal.

**Q: What is contamination?**

A: Contamination occurs when garbage and non-recyclable materials are placed in the recycling carts with good recycling materials.

Some of the common contaminants are plastic bags, food, household garbage, appliances, hoses, ropes, textiles, chains, tanks, wood, yard waste, tools, plastic furniture, shredded paper and styrofoam™ food containers.

**Q: What is a cart tag?**

A: Cart tags are used to provide neighbors real-time feedback of the audit findings. “Great Job” tags are left on recycle carts when no contaminants are found. “Oops” tags will be left on

recycle carts that contain contamination. The cart tag will identify the specific contaminants that will need to be removed in order to have the cart serviced on the next scheduled recycling day. Click [here](#) to view the cart tags.

**Q: Can I get my recycle cart back after it has been removed?**

**A:** You will be eligible to apply for a recycle cart after 90 days. You will be required to complete the **TAKE5** anti-contamination course and sign the **TAKE5** pledge. The contents of the recycle cart will be monitored with future inspections to ensure only the acceptable items are placed in the cart.

**Q: What are the acceptable items that should be placed in the blue recycling cart?**

We **TAKE5**:

- Paper
- Metal Cans
- Cardboard
- Plastic Bottles and Containers
- Glass Containers

**Q: Should I bag my recyclables?**

**A:** Do not bag your recyclables. Keep them loose, clean and dry. Plastic bags can jam and damage processing equipment creating significant delays. Plastic bags are not recyclable in the current residential program but can be taken back to many retailers.

**Q: How will I know when the audit will take place?**

**A:** Signage will be placed in the target area whenever possible prior to the scheduled audit.

**Q: Are you collecting personal information?**

A: No personal information will be gathered or removed from the carts. Employees and volunteers are trained to only check the blue recycling carts for contamination. Materials will not be removed.

**Q: What information are you gathering during tagging process?**

A: We are collecting information that identifies the common contaminants to be better equipped to provide information for future educational campaigns.

**Q: What time will the inspections take place?**

A: Cart inspections will begin at 7:00 am and are targeted for completion by 10:00 am.

**Q: Who will be conducting the cart inspections?**

A: Blue recycling cart inspections will be completed by City employees and Green Your Routine Volunteers. Both will be uniformed in yellow high visibility, reflective vests.

**Q: Is the audit safe with the current pandemic?**

A: All City employees and volunteers will have the appropriate personal protective equipment and follow CDC guidelines while performing the audits to minimize any risks related to COVID-19.

**Q: Where can I get more information?**

A: For resources and more information on the **TAKE5** visit [www.fortlauderdale.gov/Take5](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/Take5). For other questions or concerns, contact the City's 24-Hour Neighbor Support Call Center at (954) 828-8000.

**Q: How can I help with the program?**

A: If you would like to become a Green Your Routine Volunteer and help with the **TAKE5** program, please email the Green Your Routine Coordinator at [GRoutine@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:GRoutine@fortlauderdale.gov).



The City of Fort Lauderdale is working to improve the curbside recycling program by eliminating contamination throughout the City. **We need your help!**



**WE ONLY TAKE 5**

- Paper
- Glass Containers
- Plastic Containers (#1-7)
- Metal Food Cans
- Cardboard

Contamination occurs when garbage and non-recyclable materials, such as plastic bags, food, hoses, yard waste, and textiles are placed in the recycling carts with good recycling materials.

In the future, uniformed City of Fort Lauderdale staff and Green Your Routine volunteers will be in your neighborhood conducting a recycling cart audit. For 3 consecutive weeks they will be checking the contents of blue recycling carts placed curbside on the scheduled collection day. Blue recycle carts containing garbage and non-recyclable material will be tagged to identify the non-recyclable materials and will not be serviced. The non-recyclable materials must be removed for the cart to be serviced on the next scheduled recycling day.

There is a handy reference guide on the back of this card for your use. Do not bag your recyclables. Keep them loose, clean and dry.



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE



For details, visit [www.fortlauderdale.gov/take5](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/take5) or call the City's 24-Hour Customer Call Center at (954) 828-8000.



No Bagged Items



No Yard Waste



No Food or Liquid  
(empty all containers)



No Household Items  
(appliances or tools)



No Tangles, Cords,  
Hoses, Chains or Textiles



No Tanks, Wood,  
Plastic Furniture or Metal



Return Address  
Place Here

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL  
PERMIT NO. 401

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

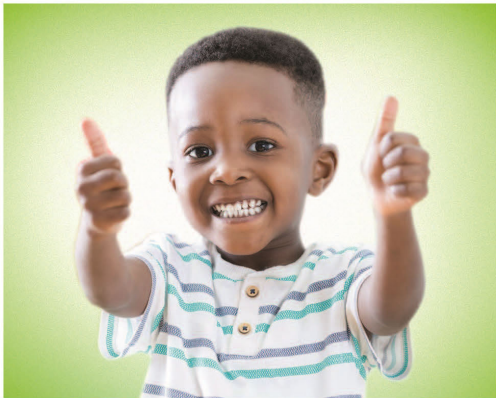
Visit: [www.fortlauderdale.gov/take5](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/take5)

Call: 954-828-8000



If you would like this publication in an alternate format, please call 954-828-4755 or email [strategiccommunications@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:strategiccommunications@fortlauderdale.gov).





# GREAT JOB!

Keep up the good work!



No Bagged Items



No Yard Waste



No Food or Liquid  
(empty all containers)



No Household Items  
(appliances or tools)



No Tangles, Cords,  
Hoses, Chains or Textiles



No Tanks, Wood,  
Plastic Furniture or Metal

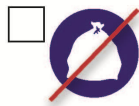
Recycle only plastic bottles and containers, metal cans, glass bottles and jars, cardboard and paper.

(954) 828-8000

[gyr.fortlauderdale.gov/recycling](http://gyr.fortlauderdale.gov/recycling)



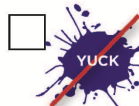
Your cart had items that cannot be recycled.  
Please leave out these items



No Bagged Items



No Yard Waste



No Food or Liquid  
(empty all containers)



No Household Items  
(appliances or tools)



No Tangles, Cords,  
Hoses, Chains or Textiles



No Tanks, Wood,  
Plastic Furniture or Metal

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Remove all unacceptable items prior to next collection day.

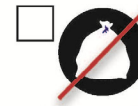
Recycle only plastic bottles and containers, metal cans, glass bottles and jars, cardboard and paper.

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Your cart had items that cannot be recycled.  
Please leave out these items



No Bagged Items



No Yard Waste



No Food or Liquid  
(empty all containers)



No Household Items  
(appliances or tools)



No Tangles, Cords,  
Hoses, Chains or Textiles



No Tanks, Wood,  
Plastic Furniture or Metal

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Remove all unacceptable items prior to next collection day. Further contamination may result in the cart being removed.

Recycle only plastic bottles and containers, metal cans, glass bottles and jars, cardboard and paper.

(954) 828-8000

[gyr.fortlauderdale.gov/recycling](http://gyr.fortlauderdale.gov/recycling)

