

# RECYCLING SIGNAGE AND LABELS

## FACT SHEET

### BENEFITS OF USING STANDARDIZED SIGNAGE

Along with labeling each container, it is ideal to have signs with images to represent the contents that should go in each bin. The benefits of standardizing signage on all containers include:

- **Minimized confusion.** Clear signage reduces accidental contamination (presence of garbage in recycling bins).
- **Efficient separation.** Clear signage speeds up the process of separation, especially when one becomes used to seeing standard recycling images.
- **Constant reminders.** Practice makes perfect. Clear signage repeatedly reminds people to separate recyclables from garbage when possible.

### BEST PRACTICES FOR SIGNS AND LABELS

- Labels and images should be large enough for anyone to see with ease when walking up to the bin. If possible, place signs on the wall at eye level to ensure they are visible.
- All lids should be clearly labeled, along with another label or sign on the front side of the container.
- There should always be one of each container side-by-side with all labels and signs turned outwards.
- Color-coded signs help to identify materials as well. **Blue** = recyclables, **green** = compostables, and **brown/black** = garbage.
- Include images on bins throughout the building to make it easier to recognize where items should be placed and to communicate across languages.

### RESOURCES FOR SIGNS AND LABELS

[Recycle Across America](#) has developed standardized, universal recycling labels that are recognizable from one building to the next.



Additional free and downloadable tools for recycling signage include the [signmaker tool](#) from SF Environment; [signmaker tool](#) from Rethink Recycling; [standard signs](#) from Waste Solutions and [graphic signs](#) from Business Recycling.

## LINKS & RESOURCES

- **Business Recycling Signage and Posters**  
<http://businessrecycling.com.au/research/signage.cfm>
- **Recycle Across America**  
<http://www.recycleacrossamerica.org/>
- **Rethink Recycling Sign Maker**  
<https://www.rethinkrecycling.com/signmaker/>
- **SF Environment Zero Waste Sign Maker**  
<https://sfenvironment.org/signmaker>
- **Waste Solutions Labelling & Signage**  
<http://wastesolutions.ie/about-us/labelling-signage>