



Re: Important Update: Recycling may NOT be in paper bags

From Bainbridge, Shana L. <SLDixon@bcps.k12.md.us>
Date Mon 10/6/2025 3:26 PM
To Vinas Meza, Gaby <EGVinasMeza@bcps.k12.md.us>

Thank you for taking the time to explain.

Shana Bainbridge

Pre-K to 5th Grade S.T.E.A.M teacher

Charles Carroll Barrister Baltimore City Public Schools

From: Vinas Meza, Gaby <EGVinasMeza@bcps.k12.md.us>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 2:46 PM
To: Bainbridge, Shana L. <SLDixon@bcps.k12.md.us>
Subject: Re: Important Update: Recycling may NOT be in paper bags

Hi Shana,

I understand your frustration. DPW informed me of this new update: the new facility has fewer staff members and more automation as part of the sorting process. Because of this, any bagged items are considered contamination.

I'm sorry I cannot be of more immediate help regarding this issue. I'm hoping we can set aside funds to purchase some bins for schools, and I'll be sure to keep you posted on any updates.

We really appreciate all the effort your team puts into the recycling program and are happy to support you in any way we can to keep things running smoothly.

Best,

Gaby Vinas

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From: Bainbridge, Shana L. <SLDixon@bcps.k12.md.us>
Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 1:22 PM
To: Vinas Meza, Gaby <EGVinasMeza@bcps.k12.md.us>
Subject: Re: Important Update: Recycling may NOT be in paper bags

Can I ask why not? Our bins are continually stolen and I don't have enough boxes that can be dumped
Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 6, 2025, at 12:48 PM, Vinas Meza, Gaby <EGVinasMeza@bcps.k12.md.us> wrote:

Hello,

Baltimore City Department of Public Works (DPW) has an important update regarding recycling collection:

- Recycling may **not be in paper or plastic bags as of TODAY**. Any recycling in a bag will now be considered contaminated and will not be collected.

<image.png>

- **Please use plastic bins whenever possible.**
- If you do not have bins, **you can use sturdy cardboard boxes that can be easily emptied.**
- Boxes or open containers **must be stored in a covered area** to prevent wet materials, which will be considered contaminated and will not be collected.

Please share this information with your school staff to ensure proper recycling practices. Following these guidelines will help prevent contamination and keep our recycling program effective.

Thank you for your attention and support in maintaining a successful recycling program. If you have any questions, please email green@bcps.k12.md.us.

Best,

Gaby Vinas

Analyst- Sustainability

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