

**Please note - this is not a comprehensive list and items may change depending on our recycling and compost facilities. When in doubt, throw it out. This eliminates contamination that may affect the entire bin.**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Bin</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Appliances	Microwave, coffee maker, air fryer, mini fridge, blender, kettle	Specialty recycling	Refrigerators and appliance disposal site: <a href="https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/refrig-app.html">https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/refrig-app.html</a>
Bottle	Plastic water bottle	Recycling	Some plastic water bottles don't have a recycling symbol on them, these bottles can be assumed to be recyclable. Bottle caps can be kept on the bottles.  Any liquids should be emptied before putting the bottle in this bin. Liquids can contaminate the entire bin and all items may have to be landfilled instead.
Bottle	Plastic toiletries bottle	Recycling	If the bottle displays the numbers #1 - #5 on the bottom, recycle them.  Any liquids should be emptied before putting the bottle in this bin. Liquids can contaminate the entire bin and all items may have to be landfilled instead.
Bottle	Metal bottle	Recycling	Make sure to empty foods and liquids before putting it into the recycling bin. Excess food and liquids can contaminate the entire bin.
Bottle	Glass bottle	Recycling	Make sure to empty foods and liquids before putting it into the recycling bin. Excess food and liquids can contaminate the entire bin.
Can	Metal drink can	Recycling	Make sure to empty liquids before putting it into the recycling bin. Excess food and liquids can contaminate the entire bin.
Can	Food can	Recycling	Make sure to empty foods and liquids before putting it into the recycling bin. Excess food and liquids can contaminate the entire bin.
Carton	Carton - paper	Landfill	Examples include milk, juice, and ice cream. While these items appear to be paper, they are a combination of paper and plastic, even sometimes metal linings inside. These kinds of multi-lined products should be landfilled.

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Carton	Carton - multi layered	Landfill	Examples include soup cartons and Tetrapaks (like some milk cartons). These items are a combination of paper, plastic, and metal. These kinds of multi-lined products should be landfilled.
Carton	Carton - plastic	Recycling	If the plastic carton has a #1, #2, or #5 on the bottom then the item is recyclable.
Carton	Juice box	Landfill	
Carton	Paper egg carton	Recycling	
Cleaning	Plastic soap dispenser	Recycling	Containers made from plastics #1, #2, and #5 are accepted in the recycling. Empty contents before recycling.
Cleaning	Hand sanitizer bottle	Recycling	Containers made from plastics #1, #2, and #5 are accepted in the recycling. Empty contents before recycling.
Cleaning	Metal aerosol spray can	Recycling	Recycling if empty and non toxic. If contents remain, or toxic, refer to hazardous waste site: <a href="https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/hazwaste.html">https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/hazwaste.html</a>
Cleaning	Plastic spray bottle	Recycling	Containers made from plastics #1, #2, and #5 are accepted in the recycling. Responsibly empty contents before recycling.
Cleaning	Disposable cleaning wipe	Landfill	
Cleaning	Cloth rag	Landfill	
Cleaning	Plastic based sponge	Landfill	Consider purchasing an eco-sponge: <a href="https://zerowasteoutlet.com/collections/kitchen/products/dual-action-eco-sponges-2-pack-cellulose-leafah">https://zerowasteoutlet.com/collections/kitchen/products/dual-action-eco-sponges-2-pack-cellulose-leafah</a>
Cleaning	Eco-sponge	Landfill	
Cleaning	Plastic bucket or basket	Recycling	
Cleaning	Broom/mop	Landfill	You may place in the large landfill dumpsters around campus
Container	Clean paper container	Recycling	Paper containers that have a waxy coating to help prevent leaks is partially made from plastic and should be treated as landfill instead.
Container	Soiled paper container	Landfill	Commonly soiled paper is cause from grease.

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Container	Plastic tupperware	Recycling	Only plastics #1, 2, and 5 are accepted as recycling. Consider donating containers if in good condition.
Container	Paper plate - compostable	Compost	Paper plate must state compostable on the plate or on the packaging. When in doubt, throw it out.
Container	Plastic bowl / plate	Landfill	
Container	Paper bowl / plate - compostable	Compost	
Container	Plastic container/clamshell	Recycling	Only plastic containers labelled with a #1 - #5 are recycled. Be sure to remove food waste before recycling.
Container	Plastic produce basket	Recycling	Only baskets #1, 2, and 5 are accepted in recycling. Others are landfill. ** You may be able to bring your own container or they may accept used, washed containers. Always good to ask.
Container	Plastic produce bag	Landfill	Any thin plastic should be treated as landfill.
Container	Hard plastic single-use food container	Recycling	Only plastics #1, #2, and #5 are recycled. If your item is another number or doesn't have one, it should be landfilled.
Container	Ziploc bags	Landfill	Consider using reusable bags.
Cup	Compostable paper cup	Compost	Cups that do not specifically state compostable should be thrown into a landfill bin.  Any liquids should be emptied before putting the cup in this bin. Liquids can contaminate the entire bin and all items may have to be landfilled instead.
Cup	Paper cup	Landfill	If the cup doesn't state being compostable, it should be treated as landfill. Paper cups have a plastic or waxy lining to keep the cup water tight which means that most paper cups are not just paper but rather a plastic and paper mix which makes it a landfill item.

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Cup	Compostable paper cup - hot	Compost	<p>Cups that do not specifically state compostable should be thrown into a landfill bin.</p> <p>Any liquids should be emptied before putting the cup in this bin. Liquids can contaminate the entire bin and all items may have to be landfilled instead.</p>
Cup	Paper coffee - hot	Landfill	<p>If the cup doesn't state being compostable, it should be treated as landfill. Paper cups have a plastic or waxy lining to keep the cup water tight which means that most paper cups are not just paper but rather a plastic and paper mix which makes it a landfill item.</p>
Cup	Plastic drink lid	Recycling	<p>Be sure to check the recycling number on the lid, if it's a #1 - #5 then the lid is recyclable.</p>
Cup	Compostable plastic cup - cold	Compost	<p>Cups that do not specifically state compostable should be thrown into a landfill bin.</p> <p>Any liquids should be emptied before putting the cup in this bin. Liquids can contaminate the entire bin and all items may have to be landfilled instead.</p>
Cup	Compostable plastic cup - hot	Compost	<p>Cups that do not specifically state compostable should be thrown into a landfill bin.</p>
Cup	Solo cup	Landfill	<p>Solo cups are made from polystyrene, which is the same material as styrofoam, these cups are a #6 plastic and are not accepted by our recycler.</p>
Cup	Plastic drink pouches	Landfill	
Cup	Plastic cup - black	Landfill	<p>Items made from black plastic should be landfilled no matter the number because our recycler uses optical scanning technology to sort plastics and black plastic absorbs light and doesn't work in their equipment.</p>

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Cup	Plastic cup - colored, white, or clear	Recycling	Check the bottom for the recycling number, if it is a #1 - #5, then it is recyclable.  Any liquids should be emptied before putting the cup in this bin. Liquids can contaminate the entire bin and all items may have to be landfilled instead.
Cup	Bottle cap - plastic	Recycling	Reattach to bottle if possible, if not, place in recycling loose.
Cup	Glass jar	Recycling	Any lids should be put into the recycling bin separate because they are not the same material as the jar. Alternatively, consider reusing jars to store food or other items.  Any liquids should be emptied before putting the jar in this bin. Liquids can contaminate the entire bin and all items may have to be landfilled instead.
Cutlery	Utensil - plastic	Landfill	
Cutlery	Utensil - fiber based	Compost	These could be paper or wood based
Cutlery	Metal utensil	Recycling	
Cutlery	Plastic straw	Landfill	Consider refusing a straw when asked. Alternatively, buying a metal or wood reusable straw is a great way to reduce waste. They are easy to store and there are many compactable options.
Cutlery	Paper straw	Landfill	Read packaging on straw. If you don't have the packaging, when it doubt, throw it out
Cutlery	Wooden chopstick, drink stirrer, toothpick	Compost	
Dining	Coffee filter	Compost	
Dining	Cork	Landfill	
Dining	Aluminum foil	Recycling	Before recycling, clean or rinse off to remove any food residue.
Dining	Plastic wrap	Landfill	Any thin plastic should be treated as landfill.
Dining	Sauce / condiment packet	Landfill	
Dining	Netting	Landfill	
Dining	Tea bag	Compost	

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Food	Food	Compost	Our compost bins can handle solid food waste. This includes raw or cooked food, bones, meat, dairy, shells, rinds, and peels. Liquids and grease should be avoided.
Hazardous	Oil	Specialty recycling	UCSC generated oil: <a href="https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/oil.html">https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/oil.html</a>
Hazardous	Various chemicals	Special instructions	UCSC Chemical Hazardous Waste website: <a href="https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/hazwaste.html">https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/hazwaste.html</a>  Lab recycling guide: <a href="https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/lab-recycling-guide.pdf">https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/lab-recycling-guide.pdf</a>
Hazardous	Paint	Special Instructions	UCSC generated paint guide: <a href="https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/paint.html">https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/paint.html</a>
Health & beauty	Nail polish	Landfill	Dry it out then place in landfill.
Health & beauty	Cosmetics	Landfill	Refer to <a href="https://calrecycle.ca.gov/healthcare/home/">https://calrecycle.ca.gov/healthcare/home/</a>
Home	Plastic or metal coat hanger	Recycling	Bundle with a string or twine and recycle.
Home	Wooden coat hanger	Landfill	
Home	Cotton ball, swab, pad	Landfill	
Home	Balloon	Landfill	Balloons once popped or deflated cause a choking hazard for wildlife, so should be avoided.
Home	Plastic basket	Recycling	Medium sized plastic laundry-type baskets may be recycled.
Home	Menstrual products	Landfill	
Home	Healthcare	Special instructions	Please research the most environmentally responsible manner to dispose of any healthcare related items.
Home	Candle	Landfill	Place in landfill, or if it can be reused, consider donating.

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Large item	Furniture (couch, chair, desk, table, bed, rug, shelves, bedding, textiles, etc)	Special instructions	<p>Campus furniture: It must go through the UCSC Surplus Store: <a href="https://www.receiving.ucsc.edu/surplus-store/index.html#surplusstore">https://www.receiving.ucsc.edu/surplus-store/index.html#surplusstore</a></p> <p>NON UCSC furniture: donate any items that are in good shape and landfill broken items.</p> <p>Move-out: Goodwill donation bins</p> <p>Other times: Grey Bears, online options</p>
Miscellaneous	Face mask / protective facial covering	Landfill	
Miscellaneous	Animal waste	Landfill	Bag it and then place in landfill.
Miscellaneous	Bike parts	Specialty recycling	Donate to the Santa Cruz Bike Co-op: <a href="https://sites.google.com/view/ucscbikecoop">https://sites.google.com/view/ucscbikecoop</a>
Miscellaneous	Broken glass or ceramic	Landfill	Safely place broken glass into a rigid/hard container, then place into landfill.
Miscellaneous	Flowers, potted plants	Compost	
Office supplies	Binder	Landfill	<p>Due to its mixed materials, it is landfill. If the cardboard lining can be separated, it may be recycled.</p> <p>If it is in good condition, consider donating it.</p>
Office supplies	Pencil	Landfill	
Office supplies	Rubber band	Landfill	
Office supplies	Zip tie	Landfill	
Office supplies	Tape & dispenser	Landfill	
Office supplies	Lightbulb		Follow the guidelines from Environmental Health and Safety for proper disposal: <a href="https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/lamps.html">https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/lamps.html</a>
Office supplies	Pen, marker	Landfill	
Paper	Magazine, catalog	Recycling	
Paper	Gift wrap	Recycling	
Paper	Tissues	Landfill	
Paper	Junk mail	Recycling	
Paper	Coupon	Recycling	
Paper	Napkin	Landfill	

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Paper	Paper towel	Landfill	
Paper	Softcover book	Recycling	
Paper	Cereal box	Recycling	Remove inner plastic bag and place that in landfill. Then, if clean and dry, place cardboard into recycling. Always break down cardboard to ensure space is utilized efficiently and it is less likely to be damaged.
Paper	Clean pizza box	Recycling	If the cardboard is clean and mostly not greasy, break down and place in recycling. If very soiled, place in landfill.
Paper	Soiled pizza box	Landfill	Remove food waste and paper insert, and place into the landfill.
Paper	Cardboard box	Recycling	Remove all tape, bubble wrap or other contents, break it down, then place into the recycling or "cardboard only" bin.
Paper	Office paper: blank, lined, or inked	Recycling	
Paper	Padded envelope	Landfill	
Paper	Paper envelope	Recycling	If it is not padded, it may be recycled.
Paper	Paper bag	Recycling	May be placed in recycling. If soiled, place in landfill.
Paper	Receipt	Landfill	While made from paper, receipts have been heat treated with plastic to strengthen the paper, this process makes this a multi-layered product and must be landfilled. Many businesses allow for an emailed receipt, consider opting for this when available.
Paper	Shredded paper	Recycling	Place into a clear sealed bag or a stapled brown paper bag to prevent loss.
Plastic	Thin plastic wrap or film	Landfill	
Plastic	Plastic bottle cap	Landfill	When disposed of without the bottle, bottle caps must be placed in landfill.
Plastic	Yogurt cup	Recycling	Clean out cup before recycling, and if it contains a foil lid, remove and place in landfill.

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Plastic	Styrofoam item	Landfill	<p><a href="https://sustainability.ucsc.edu/engage/green-certified/green-labs/resources/Waste%20Reduction/styrofoam-history.html">More information on styrofoam disposal on campus: https://sustainability.ucsc.edu/engage/green-certified/green-labs/resources/Waste%20Reduction/styrofoam-history.html</a></p> <p><a href="#">Reporting form:</a></p>
Plastic	Hard plastic packaging	Recycling	Check the bottom for a #1, #2, or #5 recycling number, if that's missing or a different number, it should be treated as landfill.
Plastic	Thin plastic bag	Landfill	Consider purchasing reusable bags to eliminate waste. You may also reuse plastic bags as home trash bags or grocery bags.
Supply	Latex glove	Landfill	Landfill unless it's contaminated with something that is hazardous. Disposal bins may be present in some lab spaces, talk to building manager for more information.
Technology/E-waste	Small e-waste item (small electronics, CD, printer cartridges)	Specialty recycling	<p>Small electronics may be placed in Blue Multi-Bins located in college mailrooms, ARCH laundry rooms, and outside the Camper Park kitchen.</p> <p>For more information, refer to the electronic waste guide: <a href="https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/e-waste.html">https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/e-waste.html</a></p>
Technology/E-waste	Medium/large electronics (computer, charger, speaker, camera, monitor, printer, television)	Special instructions	Electronic waste guide: <a href="https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/e-waste.html">https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/e-waste.html</a>
Technology/E-waste	Battery	Specialty recycling	<p>May be placed in Brown Bins located in the colleges, administrative and academic buildings.</p> <p>Battery recycling program: <a href="https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/batteries.html">https://ehs.ucsc.edu/programs/waste-management/recycling-disposal/batteries.html</a></p>
Wrapper	Snack packaging	Landfill	Examples include chip bags, candy wrappers, and single-serve snacks. Consider buying bulk to cut down on packaging waste.

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Wrapper	Frozen food bag	Landfill	Any thin plastic should be treated as landfill.
Wrapper	Plastic bread bag	Landfill	Any thin plastic should be treated as landfill.