



Safety and Environmental Newsletter

May 2021 — 109th Edition



HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

Some hazards jump out at you, while others hide in the background of everyday tasks. Pay attention to what's up, down, and all around so you can spot hazards before they lead to injury. Look for barricades and warning signs, and be aware of work that's happening around you. Wear appropriate PPE when necessary.

Don't let trip hazards slip your mind. Uneven surfaces, slippery floors, obstructions in pathways, and exposed power cords can all lead to a slip, trip, or a fall. Keep an eye out for external hazards and avoid distractions when walking.

Don't maintain the pain of bad ergonomics either. Performing repetitive tasks with no breaks, sitting in awkward positions are bad ergonomics practices. Evaluate your workstation and spot ergonomic hazards and make adjustments.



Summer Safety Month

June is Summer Safety Month. Anyone can be at risk for a heat-related illness. Follow these summer safety tips as we gear up for Summer 2021:

Stay Hydrated
Protect your skin
Practice water safety
Practice eye safety
Bug safety

Be on the lookout for a number of heat-related illnesses including heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and heat cramps.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

While anyone who works with electricity quickly develops a healthy respect for it, even the best of the best can make mistakes when under pressure. Here are a few safety reminders when it comes to working with electricity:

- Use correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Use properly-rated tools paired with the correct PPE
- Follow the correct steps to safely complete the job
- Ensure you are up-to-date with all necessary training and requirements

For more information and to read the full article on common mistakes made while testing electricity, click [here](#).



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After Spring Cleaning, Don't Wish-cycle

Which of the following could contaminate items destined for recycling:

- a. A bag of shredded paper
- b. A peanut butter jar with smears of peanut butter
- c. Plastic bags
- d. A #7 plastic container
- e. All of the above



If you guessed “e” then you are correct. It’s estimated that 25 percent of items in a recycling container may be contaminants and not recyclable. These items can clog machinery, harbor pests, and as a result make recycling less likely to be financially viable. “In 2018, China imposed a strict contamination standard. ... Now China will only accept recycled U.S. scrap that is no more than 0.5 percent contaminated. This standard is nearly impossible for recyclers to meet. Considering China was once a top destination for U.S. recyclables, buying 31 percent of U.S. scrap in 2017, the new stricter contamination policy was a devastating blow for exporters.”¹

But contamination occurs not just in the recycling bin, but also at thrift shops and donation centers. Items dropped off at these sites which cannot be sold, often end up in the landfill. For example, “Goodwill does recycle lots of what it can't sell. The nonprofit reuses textiles and refurbishes some broken electronics. But last year, it threw away more than 13 million pounds of waste — technically other people's garbage — across its locations in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. ... The key question to ask before dropping something off is: If you needed it, would you buy it in *this* condition?”²



You can keep the recycling wheel turning by knowing which items can be placed in the recycling container. Remember, don't donate anything you wouldn't want to buy. Hoping that something will be recycled, doesn't make it happen. Don't be a wish-cycler!

For more information about recycling at WFF, contact Wayne Redmond at wayne.k.redmond@nasa.gov

RECYCLING HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!

YES

- Plastic Narrow Neck Containers #1&2
- Plastic Wide Neck Containers #1&2
- Metal Food & Beverage Containers
- Aluminum Foil & Trays
- Glass Bottles & Jars
- Newspapers
- Light Cardboard
- Food Boxes
- Milk & Juice Boxes
- Paper Bags & Non-Foil Wrap
- Phone Books
- Mail, Magazines, Mixed Paper & Catalogs
- Soft & Hard Books w/o Covers

<http://sites.wff.nasa.gov/code250/documents.html#cat8>

¹ <https://millerrecycling.com/recycling-contamination-costs-money/>

² https://www.npr.org/2021/05/06/993821945/goodwill-doesnt-want-your-broken-toaster?utm_source=pocket-newtab