

## UM RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE RECYCLING: MYTHS DEBUNKED

**Myth 1:** I shouldn't recycle because I just see maintenance throw everything into the trash anyway.

Recycling and trash may be mixed, but it will get separated in the end. Utilizing clear bags for recycling and black bags for trash makes it easy for staff to separate recycling from garbage. Because dumpsters for both are in the same location, using common methods of transportation (either trash chute or cart) to move recycle and garbage from each floor to where it belongs makes it easier for staff to do their job.

**Myth 2:** Cleaning staff put recycling in to the black garbage bags because they don't want to recycle.

Sometimes potential recycling MUST be thrown away because it gets contaminated. Contaminants include any organic (food) waste that resides on potentially recyclable containers. Recycling facilities in Miami-Dade are only equipped to handle a small level of contamination, so if food or liquid is visible in the recycling, it must be tossed.

**Myth 3:** Starbucks cups and pizza boxes can be recycled

They cannot be recycled because they still contain organic waste (leftover coffee residues, grease, etc.). Throw these items in the garbage to prevent contaminating what can actually be recycled.

**Myth 4:** Plastic bags can be recycled

In some regards this can be true. However, many recycling facilities do not have the capacity to recycle plastic bags because they get caught in the machinery used and end up causing damage. If you want to recycle your plastic bags, bring them to the designated plastic bag recycling bins at Publix.