

Fact Sheet

Composition of Outbound Commingled Recycling

Oregon DEQ completed an outbound commingled recycling composition study in 2023, which provides baseline information on the contamination level in each of the outbound recycling commodities, determines the capture rate for each of the separate materials entering the facilities in the commingled recycling, and supports implementation of the Recycling Modernization Act. This fact sheet contains preliminary results, which may be updated as analysis is completed.

High level themes



Sorting

Improved sorting will be required because some materials are not currently meeting the 5% contamination standard.



Capture rate standards

Facilities are not currently meeting the capture rate standards for plastic and metal containers in our new rules.



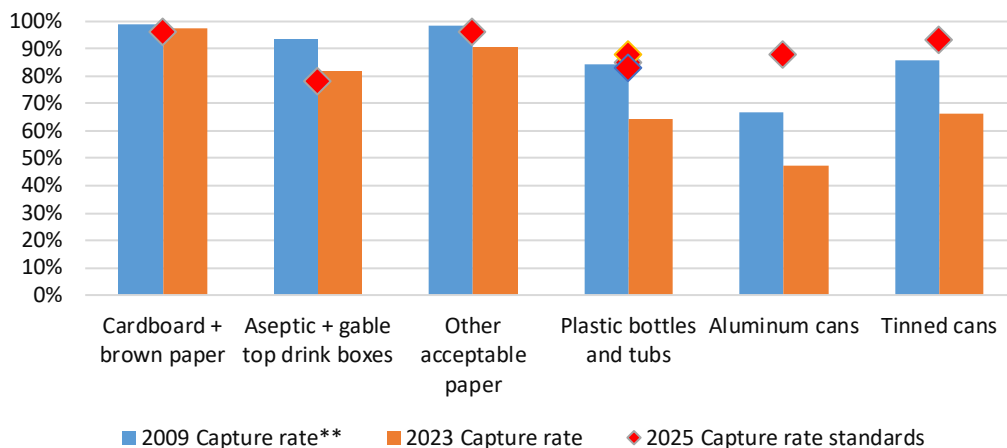
Contamination trends

Contamination of outbound commodities has significantly increased, and capture rates have decreased for most materials.

Capture rates

Capture rates have decreased across all categories from 2009 to 2023. While most aluminum beverage cans are collected through the bottle bill, less than half of cans collected in comingled recycling were captured for recycling in 2023.

Capture rate changes from 2009 to 2023*



Translation or other formats

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Contamination

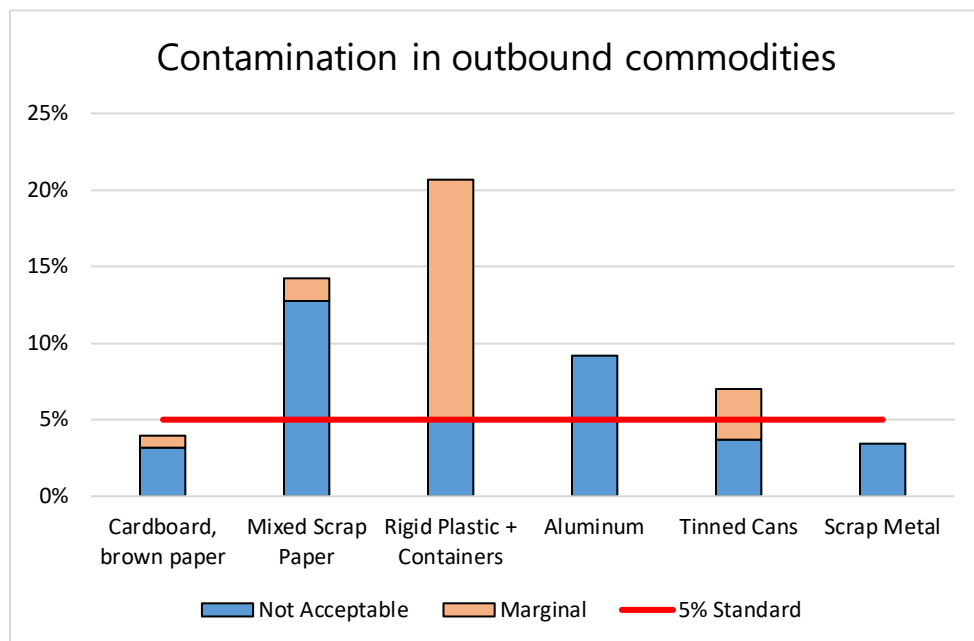
Does not meet 5% contamination standard

- Aluminum (9.19%)
- Mixed scrap paper (12.71%)

May not meet 5% contamination standard

- Rigid plastic and containers
- tinned cans

These may exceed contamination standards depending on the end market's ability to use the material.



Contact

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