

Greetings Woodlands of Livonia Homeowner,

Today the WOL Board of Directors has an **URGENT message** we need your help with! You are likely aware of the current crisis with recycling and the inability in many communities and cities to continue collecting recycling material due to the Chinese National Sword policy. In its simplest form, the Chinese National SWORD is China's latest and strictest regulation on imports of solid wastes and raw materials. The policy bans various plastic, paper and solid waste, including plastics such as PET, PE, PVC, and PS. It also sets a much tougher standard on the limit of contamination in scrap plastic and other metals allowed in a shipment – increasing from 90-95 percent purity to 99.5 percent.

The biggest issue with recycling currently is the **amount of non-recyclable items being placed in a recycling cart**. This is referred to as “wish recycle” – *wishing* something was recyclable that is not. Some of the biggest offenders are plastic bags, plastic toys, shovels, regular household trash, and packaging peanuts – and these items ending up in recycling carts continue to cause a recycling crisis.

Our trash and recycling partner, **ACE Solid Waste**, has been a great service partner here in The Woodlands of Livonia for many years, but sadly they have found that the only way to bring the issue of “wish recycle” to the front of people's minds is to create a **financial penalty when their recycling is not prepared correctly**. The penalty program is hitting all ACE Customers hard as well as us here in The Woodlands – **this month alone we had well over \$130 in additional ACE charges attributed to contaminated recycling containers by over 10% of our households**. We need your help – our budget cannot cover the expense of these additional charges and it's not fair to anyone's next door neighbor to be picking up part of the additional expense of their neighbor's contaminated recycling.

ACE had previously sent out a recycling education piece to all households in our community. If you missed that or you need a refresher, **please CLICK ON THIS LINK** <https://cdn.wasteconnections.com/cms/ace-solid-waste/RecycleRightGuide.pdf> and you'll be taken directly to that educational piece on their website. We encourage you to print this out and post in a spot to easily remind your household of what is and is not acceptable recycling. ACE suggests the rule of thumb being **“WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!”**

Additionally, all ACE recycle cart lids provide users with the needed information of the material that should be placed in the recycling cart, so even this simple reminder each time we get ready to place something in our recycling cart would be beneficial at ensuring we don't incur these additional charges.

As with all additional ACE charges that we receive that are attributable to a specific household, we will be passing these charges along to each homeowner. The Board would also like to take this opportunity to remind all homeowners that ANYTHING you schedule ACE to pick up at your home aside from your normal garbage and recycling containers **MUST** be scheduled in advance with ACE and paid for in advance **ONLINE** by your individual household. Any charges that come to the Association on an individual household's behalf will be passed on to the homeowner. We simply cannot absorb these additional monthly expenses. Please be respectful of this as the added work for our Secretary/Treasurer to track these individual household costs and bill them out and collect them from households is becoming way more time consuming than we would like.

Together, we are confident we can quickly resolve the majority of these added monthly charges and minimize the costs and the added work effort that these ACE recycling and special pick-up requests have quickly taken on.

Many thanks for your attention to this!

Woodlands of Livonia Board of Directors

Recycle It

- Newspaper and Newspaper Inserts
- Magazines and Catalogs
- Junk Mail and Envelopes
- Office and School Papers (colored paper too)
- Cardboard - 3ft. by 3ft. bundled
- Boxboard (cereal, cake, cookie & cracker boxes)
- Phone Books
- Brown Paper Bags
- Plastic Bottles, Containers, Tubs, Lids & Caps
- Paper Cartons (juice, milk, soup, broth)
- Glass Jars and Bottles
- Tin and Steel Cans
- Aluminum Cans

Trash It

- Plastic Bags and Wrap
- Food Waste
- Pizza Boxes
- Egg Cartons
- Ice Cream Cartons
- Aluminum Foil
- Plastic Cups & Silverware
- Foam Cups & Containers
- Aerosol Cans
- No food tainted items such as used paper plates, napkins & paper towel
- Styrofoam packaging material
- Plastic toys
- Garden hoses
- Flower pots
- Wrapping paper

When In Doubt, Throw It Out!