



Public Safety Advisory Theft of Curbside Recyclables



Stealing recyclables is a problem throughout San Francisco. Recycling poachers look for items of value such as aluminum cans, bottles and personal information. This crime problem has a far-reaching and negative impact on neighborhood public safety, the environment and consumer recycling efforts. As a direct result, you and your neighbors are exposed to:

- Increased noise and often trespassing on private property, at all hours.
- Increased street litter and contamination of potential compost in another bin.
- Reduction of recyclables collected for San Francisco means higher garbage rates for you.

Taking recyclables from recycling carts and bins is against the Law!

S.F. Municipal Health Code Sec. 293.1 states that it shall be unlawful for any person other than an authorized City employee or the City's authorized curbside recycling program collectors to take, remove, move or otherwise appropriate the container in which recyclable materials are placed for collection and the matters contained therein. The City and its duly authorized collectors shall have the exclusive right to collect recyclable materials placed for collection in public sidewalk and street areas.

Sec.293.2 Penalty: Any person violating any of the provisions of Section 293.1 shall be guilty of an infraction or a misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a person is subject to the following penalty:

- Infraction - fine not less than \$20 or exceeding \$250.00 for the 1st offense. 2nd or additional offense by a fine of not less than \$100 or exceeding \$250.
- Misdemeanor - a person can be punished by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding \$500, or both.

You and your neighbors can minimize the theft of recyclables by:

- ♻️ Putting your carts out as close to the regular collection time as possible.
- ♻️ Remove any personal information from documents or Junk Mail.
- ♻️ **Never confront poachers!** If they threaten your safety, call 9-1-1
- ♻️ Report persistent recycling poachers to the SFPD by calling (415) 553-0123. Take notes on the vehicle license number, car description, time of the theft, description of the person and direction they were heading.
- ♻️ Report Recycling theft online to Recology at <http://www.recologysf.com>
- ♻️ Organize a **SAFE Neighborhood Watch** on your block and communicate with your neighbors and the police regularly. Call **SAFE** at (415) 553-1984 or visit www.sfsafe.org.