

# Recyclables and How to Prepare Them

Below is an overview of the materials that may be recycled.

---

## CARDBOARD

Standard Boxes, Pizza Boxes, Food Boxes, Packaging

These items may be recycled as long as they are not soiled with food or other residue.

- Cardboard Boxes
- Pizza Boxes
- Food Boxes (such as cereal boxes, jello boxes, etc.)
- Empty Paper Towel & Toilet Paper Rolls
- Paperboard Packaging (Tissue Boxes, etc.)

## HOW TO PREPARE CARDBOARD

- Remove all packaging inside the box (such as packing peanuts, bubble wrap, etc)
  - Flatten ALL boxes
  - Check the weather. If the weather calls for high winds or rain, keep your recycling inside until the following week, if possible. Wet cardboard products are more difficult to process.
-

## **PAPER**

Newspapers, Magazines, Office Paper

- Newspapers & Inserts
- Office Paper (any color)
- Magazines, Catalogs & Brochures
- Junk Mail & Envelopes
- Paper Bags
- Phone Books & Other Soft Cover Books

## **HOW TO PREPARE PAPER**

- Cover loose papers with heavier items in the container to prevent them from blowing away
- Check the weather. If the weather calls for high winds or rain, keep your recycling inside until the following week, if possible. Wet cardboard products are more difficult to process.

---

## **PLASTIC CONTAINERS & BOTTLES**

- Plastic Water, Juice & Soda Bottles
- Plastic Clamshells (baked goods and produce containers)
- Yogurt Containers
- Plastic Containers & Bottles #1 through #7: This may include items such as shampoo bottles, liquid detergent containers, condiment bottles, etc. Please check the container to find the designated number.

## HOW TO PREPARE PLASTICS

- Remove caps or lids
- Rinse thoroughly to remove any residue
- Labels and neck rings do not need to be removed from containers

---

## METAL & ALUMINUM

Aluminum Cans, Steel Cans and Food Containers, Empty Aerosol Cans, Paint Cans

- Aluminum Cans
- Steel Cans and Food Containers
- Empty Aerosol Cans
- Paint Cans

## HOW TO PREPARE METALS & ALUMINUM

- Rinse thoroughly to remove any residue
  - Aerosol cans must be empty
  - Remove any plastic caps or tops unless they are part of the can
  - Labels do not need to be removed from cans
-

## **CARTONS**

Cartons are defined as a type of packaging that food and beverage products come in that you can purchase at the store. There are two types of cartons:

- Shelf-stable cartons — include juice, milk, soy milk, soup and broth, and wine cartons. These are cartons that do not need to be kept cold.
- Refrigerated cartons — include milk, juice, cream and egg substitute cartons. These items must be kept cold.

### **HOW TO PREPARE CARTONS**

- Be sure to remove straws.
- Make sure the carton is empty and rinsed out.
- Cartons may be placed in your bin along with all other recyclables.

---

## **GLASS**

Food & Beverage Glass Only

- Clear, brown, blue and green glass food and beverage containers.

### **HOW TO PREPARE GLASS**

- Rinse thoroughly to remove any residue
  - Remove any plastic caps or tops
  - Note: Labels do not need to be removed from bottles or containers
-

## **UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS**

The following items are **NOT** recyclable.

- Food-Soiled Materials
- Needles and Medical Waste
- Broken Glass
- Windows, Mirrors, Ceramics
- Drinking Glasses
- Aluminum Foil
- Scrap Metal
- Plastic Tableware (Knives, Forks, etc.)
- Plastic Bags (Including Grocery Bags)
- Light Bulbs
- Solvents, Oil and/or Chemical Containers
- Soaked and/or Wet Papers or Cardboard
- Waxy Cardboard
- Plastic Food Wrappers
- Used Paper Towels or Tissues
- Christmas Lights
- Hoses
- Propane Tanks

- Shredded Paper

---

## **Preparing Your Materials**

### Cleaning & Preparing Your Materials

Rinsing containers to remove food or product residue helps ensure the materials you recycle are able to be processed after pickup. This can also help reduce odor and insects around the area in your home where your recycling container is stored.

Products heavily damaged or soiled may not be recycled and should instead be placed in your waste container.

### Tips to Get Ready for Pickup

Placing your bin in the appropriate area for pickup and following the simple steps below will help ensure your materials are collected on your designated pickup days:

- Check the weather. If the weather forecast calls for high winds or rain, keep your recycling inside until the following week, if possible. Wet paper is more difficult to process.
- Place your bin out on the scheduled pickup day.
- Ensure any loose paper or light cardboard is covered with heavier materials. This will help ensure your materials do not blow out of the bin.
- Bundle any large or loose pieces of cardboard that will not fit inside your recycling bin.
- Collect your recycling container as soon as possible after pickup to prevent it from blowing away.

Source: Penn Waste