

Curbside Recycling Guide

- 1. Always make sure recycled items are clean and dry.** Food and liquid waste left on recyclable materials are quick to contaminate an entire bin.
- 2. Do not bag recyclables, keep them loose in the bin.** Loose bags easily get stuck in sorting machines, which can damage or jam the machine.
- 3. Stay away from the small stuff.** Just like loose plastic bags jam or damage machines, so will other small recyclables like shredded paper and other thin plastics. Bottle caps are generally okay to recycle but need to be screwed back on to their original bottle.
- 4. Don't just place recycling bins in the kitchen.** Keep recycling throughout the house in bathrooms and bedrooms to make sure it's accessible and easy.
- 5. Unsure? Look it up!** Familiarize yourself with your local municipality recycling specifications. Many cities have detailed guides online about what their recycling program can and cannot accept.
- 6. Don't wishcycle.** Wishcycling is when you put something in the recycling bin hoping it will be recycled, while it likely won't be. If you're unsure what to do with an item, it is better to toss it in the trash than to optimistically place it in the recycling.

Curbside-Recyclable Materials

Cardboard & Paperboard

Flatten all cardboard and paperboard before recycling.

Food & Beverage Cans

Recycle empty tin, aluminum, and steel cans. Remove plastic lid before recycling empty aerosol cans.

Food & Beverage Cartons

Check your local program guidelines for carton recycling rules.

Glass Containers

Glass bottles, jars, and other packaging. Check your local program guidelines for glass recycling rules.

Uncoated Paper

Paper, newspaper, and magazines. Wet or soiled paper should be composted.

Plastics

Caps must be put back on containers before tossing in the bin. Note which plastics are recyclable by their symbols.

Likely Curbside-Recyclable Plastics*



(Polyethylene Terephthalate) Drink bottles, salad dressing containers, clear plastic jars, mouthwash bottles, and prepared food trays.



(High Density Polyethylene) Milk jugs, bleach/detergent bottles, cereal box liners, yogurt and butter containers, and bottle caps.



(Low Density Polyethylene) Hard flexible plastics such as bread bags, 6-pack rings, frozen food bags, and squeezable bottles.



(Polypropylene) Packing tape, take-out tubs, condiment bottles, medicine bottles, straws, dishware, and buckets.

Rarely Curbside-Recyclable Plastics*



(Polyvinyl Chloride) Clear food packaging, plumbing pipes, wire/cable insulation, siding, flooring, fencing, window frames, toys, hoses.



(Polystyrene) Styrofoam, disposable cutlery, meat trays, packing peanuts.



(Miscellaneous Plastic) Water cooler jugs, plastic lumber, gas containers, acrylic, nylon, and combinations of different plastics.

**Note: Curbside recycling programs vary widely across the US and the rest of the world. It is important to check with your local municipality to confirm what is and is not accepted.*