



THE "YES AND NO" OF WHAT CAN GO IN THE RECYCLING BOXES



YES	NO		
<p align="center">Aluminum <i>Empty and rinse.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ cans ➤ aluminum foil ➤ pie pans, aluminum trays 	siding scrap metal foil-wrapped beverage pouches (Capri Sun) pots & pans utensils tools		
<p align="center">Steel (tin) cans <i>Empty and rinse. Labels do not need to be removed.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ food and beverage cans (metal lids OK) ➤ pet food, soup cans (metal lids OK) 	hangers scrap metal aerosol spray cans paint cans car parts	toys appliances pipes pots & pans fuel tanks	utensils tools
<p align="center">Glass <i>Empty and rinse. Discard lids in trash. Labels do not need to be removed.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ food and beverage bottles and jars 	ceramics baking dishes dishware drinking glasses broken glass	cookware (Pyrex) coffee mugs medicine bottles plate glass mirrors	light bulbs fluorescent lights eye glasses vases windows glass art wine corks
<p align="center">Plastics <i>ONLY containers smaller than 2.5 gallons are recyclable. Empty and rinse. Discard caps in trash.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ food containers: margarine, yogurt, cooking oil, condiments, peanut butter ➤ beverage bottles and jugs: soda, water, juice, milk ➤ detergent bottles ➤ personal care bottles: shampoo, soap, etc. 	plastic bags plastic wrap/sheeting Styrofoam (polystyrene) take-out food containers cups, plates, utensils, straws cartons/trays (berry containers, cookie trays) liners from food packaging cellophane food bags (e.g., candy bars, cookies, pasta) frozen food bags/pouches meat trays	egg cartons medicine & pill bottles "packing" peanuts foam packing packaging of any kind laundry baskets toys flower pots black plastic 5-gallon pails; buckets VCR, CD cases tarps	bottles that contained motor oil, anti-freeze, pesticides, pool chemicals or other hazardous substances curbside/other plastic bins dry cleaner/garment bags indoor/outdoor/patio furniture swimming pools hoses; PVC piping or tubing containers bigger than 2.5 gallons Nalgene water bottles
<p align="center">Cartons <i>Empty, rinse, & flatten. Throw away caps & straws. Recycle with containers, not with paper.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ milk and juice cartons (plastic spout OK) ➤ soy milk, soup and drink boxes (remove straws) 	foil-wrapped pouches (Capri Sun) frozen juice cartons frozen food packaging plastic straws		
<p align="center">Paper <i>Clean paper only. Flatten boxes. "Windows" in envelopes, staples, paper clips, tape OK</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ newspaper, inserts, magazines, junk mail ➤ white, colored, glossy, and construction paper ➤ shredded paper—put in paper bag ➤ corrugated cardboard, clean pizza boxes (<i>no grease or food</i>) ➤ boxboard (for example, cereal boxes) ➤ gift wrap, gift bags, cards, gift tissue paper (no metallic inks, foil, wire, glitter) ➤ paperback books and phonebooks 	soda, beer cartons cups egg cartons frozen juice cartons take-out containers	butter, margarine boxes paper towels, napkins tissues Tyvek or padded envelopes hardcover books stickers & sticker sheeting	glossy boxes that show white strands when torn (frozen food boxes) blueprints dirtied paper (pet waste, paint) copy paper packaging

The Recycling Scoop...

▶ **PLEASE DO NOT PUT containers** (aluminum & steel cans, plastic & glass bottles, or milk/juice cartons) **in plastic bags**. Opening the bags slows down the workers at the recycling facility. Plastic bags also get caught in the sorting machinery and create a litter problem because they blow outside of the facility. Recyclable paper, including shredded paper, can be placed in **paper** bags, separately from containers. The top may be stapled shut.

▶ Materials on the **"YES list"** are relatively easy to process: clean, sort, and bale. They also have some value and marketability. These materials are recycled and made into new items, such as new aluminum cans, new glass bottles, new metal products, new paper, new clothing (such as fleece), new carpet and plastic lumber, etc. Recycling is a viable and growing part of our nation's economy. Materials that were previously thought of as garbage are now sought after as resources for a growing global economy. Last year almost 14 million tons of recovered paper were exported from the U.S. In fact, scrap paper is now our nation's number one export by volume. Exports of recyclable commodities generate more than \$8 billion annually for the U.S. Recycling is not just about reducing garbage; it's also about saving resources and promoting sustainable economic development. When you recycle, your town receives a minimum of \$15.67 per ton.

▶ Materials on the **"NO list,"** such as hangers, scrap metal, and plastic bags, can get tangled in sorting or baling equipment. Some supermarkets will accept certain plastic bags for recycling. Lids and medicine bottles are too small and fall through bales. Scrap metal is too large to bale, so although it is recyclable it is collected separately. Check with your local transfer station to see if they accept scrap metal for recycling. There are no markets for many plastics, especially Styrofoam, planting pots, black plastic, and plastics that are not from food and beverage or detergent products. Putting materials from the "NO list" into the recycling boxes slows down the workers at the recycling facility, as they have to pick them out and throw them in the trash. "NO list" items contaminate the other recyclables, and can make marketing difficult. We hope that in the future more items on the "NO list" will become recyclable!



Fun Recycling Facts

- Recycling one aluminum can saves the energy equivalent of one cup of gasoline.
- Every ton of paper recycled saves 17 full-sized trees and 380 gallons of oil.
- Five recycled two-liter PET bottles make one square foot of carpet.
- Each glass bottle produced in the U.S. contains around 30% recycled glass.

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District provides services to 21 member towns in Franklin County. The District provides free technical assistance and training to residents, businesses and schools. We provide free containers for the safe disposal of sharps, as well as accepting batteries, cell phones and mercury thermostats and thermometers for safe disposal. The District also sells recycling bins and compost bins. **For more information about solid waste management, waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, litter awareness, household hazardous waste disposal and more, visit the District's website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or contact us at (413) 772-2438, or by email at: info@franklincountywastedistrict.org.** MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD)

Helping to keep Franklin County clean and environmentally safe since 1989.
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