



# Recycling Guide

## Paper

- Mail, office, and school papers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspapers and inserts
- Phone books

### Boxes:

- Cardboard
- Cereal and cracker boxes
- Shoe boxes, gift boxes, and electronics boxes
- Toothpaste, medication, and other toiletry boxes



## Cartons

- Milk cartons
- Juice boxes
- Soup, broth, and wine cartons



## Glass

- Food and beverage bottles and jars



## Plastic

### Bottles and jugs:

- Water, soda, and juice bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Ketchup and salad dressing bottles
- Dishwashing liquid bottles and detergent jugs
- Shampoo, soap, and lotion bottles



### Cups and containers:

- Yogurt, pudding, and fruit cups
- Clear disposable cups and bowls
- Margarine, cottage cheese, and other containers
- Produce, deli, and takeout containers



## Metal

- Food and beverage cans



### Not accepted:

- Plastic bags, film, and wrap
- Batteries
- Large plastic items like laundry baskets, storage tubs, and toys
- Random metal items like pots, pipes, and hangers
- Plastic foam (Styrofoam™)
- Paper cups and plates
- Plastic utensils and straws
- Hoses, cords, and string lights
- Glass dishes, drinking glasses, window glass, and ceramics
- Containers that held hazardous products

# Recycle smart: know what goes in your recycling cart

The best thing you can do to support recycling is to recycle the right stuff. Recycle accepted items listed on the front side of this guide, and keep stuff that isn't accepted out.

Putting items in your recycling cart that aren't accepted can interfere with the recycling process, damage equipment, harm workers, and ultimately result in things not getting recycled. If you aren't sure an item can be recycled, put it in the trash.

## Keep these items out of your recycling cart



**Plastic bags and film:** These items get tangled in the equipment at recycling sorting facilities and interfere with the recycling process. Bring to a retail drop-off to be recycled.



**Large plastic items:** Plastic lawn furniture, laundry baskets, storage tubs, and plastic toys are difficult to sort at recycling facilities and there aren't good markets for recycling them.



**Random metal items:** Pots, pans, pipes, hangers, tools, and other random metal items can damage equipment and harm workers at recycling sorting facilities. All metal can be recycled, just not in your recycling cart at home – bring these items to a scrap metal recycler.



**Batteries:** These are too small to be sorted at recycling facilities, and certain batteries can cause fires. Batteries should be recycled at places like the county drop-off facilities.



**Bags of recyclables:** Don't put your recycling in bags in your recycling cart. Recyclers can't tell what's in the bag, so your items might not get recycled. Place recycling loose in your cart.



**Paper cups and plates and plastic utensils and straws:** These items are often contaminated with food, are difficult to sort at recycling facilities, and don't have good recycling markets. Avoid them by using reusable options.

Hennepin County  
Environment and Energy

[hennepin.us/recycling](http://hennepin.us/recycling)  
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