

# What Goes in Recycling?

## Recycling tips

- If it's not listed under **Yes**, it doesn't go in recycling.
- Rinse containers to remove residue.
- Put items in recycling **loose**, not bagged (except for shredded paper).
- Remove plastic covers and over-wrap from newspapers, flyers, magazines, catalogues and pop/water cases. Put plastic covers and over-wrap in garbage.

If you don't recycle properly, we can't either. If in doubt, use the [WASTE WIZARD](#) or call 311.

[WASTE WIZARD](#) – Lists over 1,500 waste items and how to properly dispose of them.

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## Recycling – Yes

### Beverage and food containers

Rinse clean and recycle

- **Plastic bottles and jugs** (lids on)
- **Milk/juice cartons and boxes** (put plastic tops and straws in garbage)
- **Glass bottles and jars** (put lids in garbage)
- **Aluminum cans**
- **Plastic food jars, tubs and lids** (e.g. margarine, yogurt, ice cream, sour cream containers)
- **Metal cans** (place lid inside can and pinch closed)
- **Cardboard cans** (e.g. frozen juice, refrigerated dough, chips, nuts, powdered drink mix – put plastic pull-off strips in garbage; place metal ends inside cardboard can and pinch closed)
- **Aluminum trays, pie plates and roasting pans**

### Home and personal product containers

Rinse clean and recycle

- **Plastic bottles** (lids and sprayers on)
- **Aerosol cans** (empty; put caps in garbage)
- **Metal paint cans & lids** (separate lids from cans)

## Foam polystyrene and plastic retail shopping bags

Rinse clean and recycle

- **Food and protective packaging** (e.g. drinking cups, egg cartons, meat trays, takeout food containers, electronics packaging)
- **Plastic retail shopping bags without drawstrings, metal detailing or hard plastic handles** (remove receipts: place all plastic bags in one retail or grocery plastic bag and tie handles together)

## Paper

Not contaminated with food or chemicals

- **Bags, rolls, junk mail, writing/computer paper, envelopes, window envelopes**
- **Shredded paper** (put in clear plastic bag and tie closed)
- **Gift wrap, cards** (no ribbons, bows, foil wrap)
- **Newspapers, flyers, telephone directories, magazines, catalogues, soft/ hardcover books** (remove plastic covers, liners, over-wrap and put in garbage)
- **Boxboard boxes** (e.g. cereal, tissue, detergent, egg cartons – flatten; remove liners, plastic windows and put in garbage)
- **Corrugated cardboard** (clean, unwaxed, flattened; pizza boxes must be empty; remove plastic over-wrap from pop/water cases and put in garbage)

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## Recycling - No

### "Top Bin Sins"

Propane cylinders

Clear plastic food containers, drinking cups

Plastic blister packs

Medical waste

Tools, scrap metal

Toys

Clothes, shoes, carpets, curtains, bedding

Small appliances, electronics

Cassettes, CDs & DVDs

Batteries

Plastic pails, plastic paint pails (with or without metal handles)

Binders (e.g. three ring)

## Other items that don't go in the Blue Bin

**Hazardous waste:** propane/helium tanks & cylinders, batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs (Must not be put in recycling or garbage; take to Drop-off Depot.)

**Plastic:** make-up jars, caulking tubes, food storage containers, motor oil jugs, plant trays, flower pots, plates, glasses, cutlery, packing peanuts

**Plastic (clear):** fruit and vegetable containers, takeout food containers, moulded bakery item trays

**Plastic (bags/wrap):** plastic over-wrap (on pop cartons, water bottles, toilet paper), bags holding flyers, dry cleaning, milk (outer and inner), produce, bread, sandwich and plastic food wrap

**Glass:** drinking glasses, dishes, cups, crystal, window glass, light bulbs, mirrors, pottery, pots, pans

**Metal:** scrap metal, coat hangers, pots, pans, small appliances

**Aluminum:** foil food wrap, potato chip bags, metallic gift wrap

**Other paper products:** waxed cardboard, waxed paper. Note: Soiled tissues and napkins go in the Green Bin.

**Wood:** pieces, flooring, crates for fruit

Note: Some of these items can be recycled at a [Drop-off Depot](#) or [Community Environment Days](#)

### [Household Hazardous Waste](#)

Proper disposal of items like propane tanks, batteries, pesticides, oil, etc. means taking these items to a Drop-off Depot. These types of items must never be put in recycling or garbage.

### [Drop-off Depots](#)

Addresses, hours, map locators and acceptable items.

Note: The Toxics Taxi provides free pick-up of 10 to 50 litres of HHW materials from Toronto residents. To book an appointment: e-mail [311@toronto.ca](mailto:311@toronto.ca) or call 311.

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