



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



YES	NO																																						
<p><b>Aluminum</b> <i>Empty and rinse.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ cans</li> <li>➤ foil</li> <li>➤ pie pans, aluminum trays</li> </ul>	siding scrap foil-wrapped beverage pouches																																						
<p><b>Steel (tin) cans</b> <i>Empty and rinse. Labels do not need to be removed.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ food and beverage cans</li> <li>➤ pet food cans</li> </ul>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>hangers</td> <td>toys</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>scrap metal</td> <td>appliances</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>aerosol spray cans</td> <td>pipes</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>paint cans</td> <td>pots &amp; pans</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>car parts</td> <td>fuel tanks</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			hangers	toys		scrap metal	appliances		aerosol spray cans	pipes		paint cans	pots & pans		car parts	fuel tanks																						
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<p><b>Glass</b> <i>Empty and rinse. Discard lids in trash. Labels do not need to be removed.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ food and beverage bottles and jars</li> </ul>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>ceramics</td> <td>cookware (Pyrex)</td> <td>light bulbs</td> <td>windows</td> </tr> <tr> <td>baking dishes</td> <td>coffee mugs</td> <td>fluorescent lights</td> <td>glass art</td> </tr> <tr> <td>dishware</td> <td>medicine bottles</td> <td>mirrors</td> <td>eye glasses</td> </tr> <tr> <td>drinking glasses</td> <td>plate glass</td> <td>vases</td> <td>wine corks</td> </tr> </table>			ceramics	cookware (Pyrex)	light bulbs	windows	baking dishes	coffee mugs	fluorescent lights	glass art	dishware	medicine bottles	mirrors	eye glasses	drinking glasses	plate glass	vases	wine corks																				
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<p><b>Plastics</b> <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"> <li>➤ food containers: margarine, yogurt, cooking oil, condiments, peanut butter</li> <li>➤ beverage bottles and jugs: soda, water, juice, milk</li> <li>➤ detergent bottles</li> <li>➤ personal care bottles: shampoo, soap, conditioner</li> </ul>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Styrofoam (polystyrene)</td> <td>egg cartons</td> <td>bottles that contained motor oil, anti-freeze, pesticides, pool chemicals or other hazardous substances</td> </tr> <tr> <td>take-out food containers</td> <td>medicine &amp; pill bottles</td> <td>curbside/other plastic bins</td> </tr> <tr> <td>cups, plates, utensils, straws</td> <td>"packing" peanuts</td> <td>dry cleaner/garment bags</td> </tr> <tr> <td>bags</td> <td>foam packing</td> <td>indoor/outdoor/patio furniture</td> </tr> <tr> <td>plastic wrap/sheeting</td> <td>packaging of any kind</td> <td>swimming pools</td> </tr> <tr> <td>cartons/trays (berry containers, cookie trays)</td> <td>clothes baskets</td> <td>hoses; PVC piping or tubing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>liners from food packaging</td> <td>toys</td> <td>containers bigger than 2.5 gallons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>cellophane food bags (e.g., candy bars, cookies, pasta)</td> <td>flower pots</td> <td>Nalgene water bottles</td> </tr> <tr> <td>frozen food bags/pouches</td> <td>black plastic</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>meat trays</td> <td>5-gallon pails; buckets</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>VCR, CD cases</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>tarps</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			Styrofoam (polystyrene)	egg cartons	bottles that contained motor oil, anti-freeze, pesticides, pool chemicals or other hazardous substances	take-out food containers	medicine & pill bottles	curbside/other plastic bins	cups, plates, utensils, straws	"packing" peanuts	dry cleaner/garment bags	bags	foam packing	indoor/outdoor/patio furniture	plastic wrap/sheeting	packaging of any kind	swimming pools	cartons/trays (berry containers, cookie trays)	clothes baskets	hoses; PVC piping or tubing	liners from food packaging	toys	containers bigger than 2.5 gallons	cellophane food bags (e.g., candy bars, cookies, pasta)	flower pots	Nalgene water bottles	frozen food bags/pouches	black plastic		meat trays	5-gallon pails; buckets			VCR, CD cases			tarps	
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<p><b>Cartons</b> <i>Empty, rinse, &amp; flatten. Recycle with containers, not paper.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ milk and juice cartons</li> <li>➤ soymilk, soup and drink boxes (remove straws)</li> </ul>	foil-wrapped pouches frozen juice cartons frozen food packaging plastic straws																																						
<p><b>Paper</b> <i>Clean paper only. Flatten boxes. "Windows" in envelopes, staples, paper clips, tape OK</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ newspaper, inserts, magazines, junk mail</li> <li>➤ white, colored, glossy, and construction paper</li> <li>➤ shredded paper—put in paper bag</li> <li>➤ corrugated cardboard, <b>clean</b> pizza boxes (<i>no grease or food</i>)</li> <li>➤ boxboard (for example, cereal boxes)</li> <li>➤ gift wrap, gift bags, cards (no metallic or foil)</li> <li>➤ paperback books and phonebooks</li> </ul>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>soda, beer cartons</td> <td>butter, margarine boxes</td> <td>glossy boxes that show white strands when torn (frozen food boxes)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>cups</td> <td>paper towels, napkins</td> <td>blueprints</td> </tr> <tr> <td>egg cartons</td> <td>tissues</td> <td>dirtied paper (pet waste, paint)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>frozen juice cartons</td> <td>Tyvek or padded envelopes</td> <td>copy paper packaging</td> </tr> <tr> <td>take-out containers</td> <td>hardcover books</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>tissue paper</td> <td>stickers &amp; sticker sheeting</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			soda, beer cartons	butter, margarine boxes	glossy boxes that show white strands when torn (frozen food boxes)	cups	paper towels, napkins	blueprints	egg cartons	tissues	dirtied paper (pet waste, paint)	frozen juice cartons	Tyvek or padded envelopes	copy paper packaging	take-out containers	hardcover books		tissue paper	stickers & sticker sheeting																			
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## 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 can be placed in paper bags, separately from containers.

▶ 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 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 garbage. "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 containers for the safe disposal of sharps and used oil, as well as accepting batteries, cell phones and mercury thermostats and thermometers for safe disposal. The District also sells recycling bins and two types of 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](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org) or contact us at (413) 772-2438, or by email at: [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto: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.  
[www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org)