

# Recycling 101

Gone are the days of separating recyclables by their material types (glass, paper, metal, etc.). Combined recycling goes by many names – single sort, one sort, co-mingled – but it all means the same thing: that you can put all of your recyclables in the same container. However, it's important to make sure you're not "wish-cycling," or putting items in your recycling bin that you wish you could recycle but aren't actually accepted. Instead, refresh your knowledge of what you can recycle, and only put in items that are accepted.

## Do recycle

### 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
- Disposable cups and bowls
- Margarine, cottage cheese, and other containers
- Produce, deli and takeout containers

#### Packaging:

- Clean packaging from toys and electronics

### Metal

- Food and beverage cans
- Clean aluminum foil and pans



## Don't recycle:

Aerosol cans

Broken dishes, drinking glasses, and vases

Containers that held hazardous products (such as oil, paint and pesticides)

Gift wrap

Microwaveable food trays

Paper cups, plates, napkins, and towels\*\*

Paper soiled with food\*\*

Plastic bags (accepted in many drop-off locations such as grocery and department stores)

Scrap metal\*

Styrofoam™

Window glass and mirrors

An item with \* is recyclable in some cities.

Contact your city recycling coordinator for details.

Find your city recycling coordinator's contact information at [hennepin.us/recycling](http://hennepin.us/recycling)

An item with \*\* can be placed in organics recycling.

## Plastic bags

Remember, plastic bags are not accepted in most curbside recycling programs because they cause problems at recycling facilities when they become wrapped around the equipment. But, they can be recycled at drop-off locations! Keep your plastic bags separate and bring them to collection bins at the front of stores such as Cub Foods, JCPenney, Lunds & Byerlys, Kohl's, Kowalski's Markets, Target, Walmart, and metro area food co-ops.