

What Goes In My Recycling Bin - Answer Guide

- 1a. Plastic cups cannot because the type of plastic is lower quality and is not often used to make new items. Plastic water bottles can be recycled or taken to the bottle deposit center.
- 1b. The cardboard box can be recycled, the plastic bag cannot because the type of plastic used is lower quality.

- 2a. The freezer box cannot be recycled because the cardboard has plastic within it to keep it from falling apart in the freezer or around water. Dry shelf boxes are created of recyclable cardboard.
- 2b. The plastic bubble-lined mailer has too much plastic to be recycled with paper. The small amount of plastic in the letter window is acceptable.

- 3a. Both items are made from the same type of plastic (#5) but the lid is too light and would be accidentally sorted at the recycling center with paper. Only the 6oz or larger tub can be recycled in home recycling.
- 3b. The office paper wrapper is lined with a waxy plastic and cannot be recycled (similar to freezer boxes).

- 4a. Only tubs 6oz or larger can be recycled in home recycling. The smaller tubs are too light and too small causing them to end up in the paper recycling.
- 4b. The hot drink cup is made out of paper but is lined with a waxy plastic so that the liquid does not cause the cup to fall apart like regular paper. It cannot be recycled.

- 5a. Only fist-sized aluminum foil (rinsed free of food parts) can be recycled. Smaller pieces of aluminum foil may end up in the paper recycling. The foil gift wrap is a mix of paper and foil and would contaminate the paper recycling stream.
- 5b. The plastic bottle can be recycled in home recycling or taken to the bottle deposit center. The clamshell food container is made from the same type of plastic (#1) but is lower quality and created with a different process and cannot be recycled.

- 6a. Large metal lids can be recycled because they will be sorted by a magnet at the recycling center. Smaller metal lids can be placed into a larger metal container (like a soup can) with the lid crimped shut before going into the recycling bin. Plastic lids are too light and will accidentally be sorted with the paper recycling.
- 6b. Paper cards with glitter or foil can contaminate the paper recycling and should be placed in the garbage.

- 7a. Paper sacks can be recycled. Plastic bags should not be placed in home recycling as they become caught in the machines and may accidentally be sorted with paper recycling.
- 7b. Paper towels and paper napkins cannot be recycled as they are made of low quality paper and will contaminate the paper recycling stream.