



Do's and Don'ts for Your Blue Bin

PAPER

Do:

- Newspapers including ads and inserts
- Magazines and catalogs
- Phone books
- Junk mail and scrap paper
- Paper bags
- Cereal, cracker, cookie & shoe boxes (“brown board” “gray board” “chip board”)
- Wrapping paper and cards (no foil, glitter, plastic coating or tape)
- Envelopes (windows and labels are OK)
- Paper labels from metal cans
- Paper towel and tissue tubes
- Construction paper
- Paper egg cartons
- Copier and printer paper, fax paper, stationery, file folders, notebooks, brochures
- Post it notes
- Shredded paper in a paper bag
- Milk and juice cartons (“gable-top containers”)
 - Even though contain a moisture barrier, there are some markets for these materials
- Aseptic containers (juice boxes, soy milk, some soup containers)
 - There are some limited, specific markets for these materials

Don't:

- Paper cups and plates, freezer boxes and juice cans, butter boxes, ice cream containers, take-out containers, bar soap boxes, detergent boxes, pop and beer cartons
 - Manufactured with, or lined with, wax, plastic or synthetic resin to repel moisture
 - Termed “wet-strength” paper or chipboard
 - Do not “pulp up” in paper manufacturing process, is a contaminant
- Paper bags lined with plastic
 - (Pet food, cat litter, coffee, pancake mix)
- Waxed paper
- Paper ream wrappers (contain plastic)
- Photographs, adhesive label backing sheets, laminated paper
- Paper towels, napkins and tissues (contaminated, short fibers, wet-strength)
- Food contaminated paper or cardboard
- Tyvek, plastic or plastic/paper combination envelopes
- Paperback books or hardcover books
 - (binding glue is a contaminant)

PLASTIC

Do:

- Plastic bottles, jugs & jars with a neck/shoulders (milk jugs, shampoo, peanut butter)
Rinsed, discard lids
- Plastic tubs 6 oz and larger (salsa, margarine, hummus)
Rinsed, discard lids
- Planting and nursery pots larger than 4 inches in diameter, rigid (not crinkly)
Cleaned
- Buckets, 5 gallons and small (handles are ok)
Rinsed, discard lids

Don't:

- Plastic bags – return to grocery store or A&P Recycling
- Bottles that have contained motor oil, pesticides or herbicides
- Lids – too small to sort out, contaminate the co-mingled paper
- Trays – microwave meals, deli products, lunchables, clear “clamshells” or “blister”, berry baskets
- Styrofoam
- Plastic or plastic-coated beverage cups, lids, straws
- Plastic packaging that is NOT a bottle or tub (film or shrink wrap, bubble wrap, cereal box liners)
- Corn- or soy-based bio-plastic, compostable food containers
(can only be composted in special commercial facilities, won't break down in home compost, is a contaminant if placed in plastics recycling)

METAL

Do:

- Steel, tin and aluminum cans
Rinsed, do not flatten, do not place lids loose (crimp inside a can)
Paper labels can be removed (scrap paper)
- Small metal items (bottle caps, nails, 2" or less in length)
Place inside a metal can and crimp it shut
- Aluminum foil (“balled up”) and aluminum trays (clean)
- Large metal items up to 30" x 8" and up to 30 pounds
- Empty aerosol cans
Remove cap but not nozzle, do not puncture or flatten can

Don't:

- Metal items with wood, plastic, rubber or paper attached
- Metal items larger than 30"x 8" or weighing more than 30 lb
- Aerosol cans with liquid still inside

ON THE SIDE

Corrugated cardboard

- Flattened, in pieces between 1 foot to 3 feet in any direction
- Do not include pieces smaller than 1'x1' (can't be sorted out at MRF)
- Do not include wax corrugated cardboard (like fruit boxes)

Glass bottles and jars

- Lids removed
- Do not include ceramics, Pyrex, baking pans, plates, picture frame glass or mirrors