

RECYCLING is happening in western Mass.

Yes, please recycle these papers & containers:



Clean papers, cardboard, shredded paper, greeting cards and wrapping paper (no foils or metallics), paperback and phonebooks with covers
paper clips, staples and metal spirals are ok



Metal cans, foil, milk and juice cartons, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles, jars, tubs and jugs
labels are ok

No, thanks:*



*Lists are not all inclusive

Contact info

Please check www.springfieldmrf.org

or call the recycling hotline at 888-888-0784 ext. 2293 for more detailed information



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



YES	NO			
<p><u>Aluminum</u> <i>Empty and rinse.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ cans ➤ foil ➤ pie pans 	siding scrap foil-wrapped beverage pouches			
<p><u>Steel (tin) cans</u> <i>Empty and rinse. Labels do not need to be removed.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ food and beverage cans ➤ pet food cans 	hangers scrap metal aerosol spray cans paint cans car parts	toys appliances pipes pots & pans fuel tanks		
<p><u>Glass</u> <i>Empty and rinse. Discard lids in trash. Labels do not need to be removed.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ food and beverage bottles and jars 	ceramics baking dishes dishware drinking glasses	cookware (Pyrex) coffee mugs medicine bottles plate glass	light bulbs fluorescent lights mirrors vases	windows glass art eye glasses wine corks
<p><u>Plastics</u> <i>ONLY containers smaller than 2 gallons are recyclable. Empty and rinse. Discard caps in trash.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ food containers: margarine, yogurt, cooking oil, condiments, peanut butter ➤ beverage bottles and jugs: soda, water, juice, milk ➤ detergent bottles ➤ personal care bottles: shampoo, soap, conditioner 	Styrofoam (polystyrene) take-out food containers cups, plates, utensils, straws bags plastic wrap/sheeting cartons/trays (berry containers, cookie trays) liners from food packaging cellophane food bags (e.g., candy bars, cookies, pasta) frozen food bags/pouches meat trays	egg cartons medicine & pill bottles "packing" peanuts foam packing packaging of any kind clothes baskets toys flower pots black plastic 5-gallon pails; buckets VCR, CD cases tarps	bottles that contained motor oil, anti-freeze, pesticides, pool chemicals or other hazardous substances curbside/other plastic bins dry cleaner/garment bags indoor/outdoor/patio furniture swimming pools hoses; PVC piping or tubing containers bigger than 2 gallons nalgene water bottles	
<p><u>Cartons</u> <i>Empty, rinse, & flatten. Recycle with containers, not paper.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ milk and juice cartons ➤ soymilk and drink boxes 	foil-wrapped pouches frozen juice cartons frozen food packaging plastic straws			
<p><u>Paper</u> <i>Clean paper only. Flatten boxes. "windows" in envelopes are ok; staples ok.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ newspaper, inserts, magazines, junk mail ➤ white and colored paper ➤ shredded paper—put in paper bag ➤ corrugated cardboard ➤ boxboard (for example, cereal boxes) ➤ clean pizza boxes (no grease or food) ➤ paperback books and phonebooks 	soda, beer cartons cups egg cartons frozen juice cartons take-out containers	butter, margarine boxes paper towels tissues Tyvek or padded envelopes hardcover books stickers & sticker sheeting	glossy boxes that show white strands when torn (frozen food boxes) blueprints dirtied paper (pet waste, paint) copy paper packaging	

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, 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.