



Be a Recycling Champion!

When we recycle we are helping the earth, right?

Well most of the time yes, but when we recycle the wrong things we can also be slowing the recycling process. This not only results in more trash including recyclable items being sent to the landfill, but it also reduces the effectiveness of our recycling system and this costs the taxpayers of South Hadley money!

Fortunately the solution to this problem lies within our grasp. In this flyer you will learn about the basics of what to recycle, what not to recycle, and a few fun facts that can help your family up its recycling game!

Source for additional information:

<http://springfieldmrf.org/what-do-i-do-with>

Tips for effective recycling:

- The numbers on the bottom of plastics have nothing to do with recycling. These resin identification symbols are used to identify the type of plastic, but do not indicate recyclability.
- Do not put your recycling out in a bag (plastic or paper) - this will make your recycling unusable.
- It is important to rinse out the remaining contents of a container in order for bottles and containers to be recyclable.
- Bottle caps must be screwed onto the bottle to be recycled as they will fall off the conveyor belt and be left behind if left loose in the recycling bin.
- Cardboard boxes must be flattened or cut up 2'x2'- all paper and cardboard must be clean & dry.



Do not recycle at the curb:

- Batteries.
- Plastic bags - this is a big NO because the bags can get caught in the machinery that is used to run a recycling plant.
- Napkins and paper towels should be composted or discarded.
- Aerosol cans - these cans may be metal but they once contained chemicals that cannot be recycled and can sometimes be hazardous. There is also a risk of explosion.
- Brightly dyed paper or other things that have large amounts of dye.
- Food and liquids.
- Shredded paper - can slip through the cracks in the recycling facility.
- Tempered glass including mason jars - these are designed to withstand high temperatures.
- Clamshell containers that are black plastic, styrofoam, or compostable.
- Light bulbs, window or auto glass, dishes, glasses, Pyrex, ceramics, or broken glass.
- Paint cans or other household metal objects.
- Clothing or textiles.
- Plastic containers over 2.5 gallons, motor oil jugs, chemical jugs.
- Styrofoam containers.
- Flower pots.



What can be recycled at the curb:

- Junk mail - plastic windows are okay.
- Boxboard including cereal, shoe, cracker boxes, clean pizza boxes, etc.
- remove plastic bag liners.
- Milk & juice cartons (tent top).
- Drink boxes – remove straws & caps, flatten.
- Newspapers and advertising inserts.
- Magazines and catalogs.
- Paper bags.
- White and colored office paper - in large pieces, not shredded.
- Corrugated cardboard - flatten, remove tape and do not tie with string or tape. The boxes must be 2'x2' size.
- Paperbacks and phone books - covers okay.
- Aluminum - including cans and foil, labels are okay.
- Tin/steel cans and lids.
- Clamshell containers made of clear plastic.
- Plastic bottles and tubs including milk jugs with caps - must be smaller than 2.5 gallons.
- Glass jars - not mason.