

10 THINGS

Can I recycle this? The 'yes' and 'no' of curbside recycling



1 • Receipt paper

NO. Receipt paper can't be recycled. Because of the presence of BPA and the low paper quality, thermal printed receipts belong in the trash. We encourage you to ask for an electronic receipt when available.

2 • Plastic bags

NO. Plastic grocery bags, plastic produce and bread bags and plastic films are recyclable but are not accepted in your curbside recycle bin. These items get wrapped in machinery at the material recovery facility where recyclables are processed. Many local stores take plastic bags and films for recycling. You can check online at plasticfilmrecycling.org or a store near you.



3 • Pizza boxes



YES. You can remove greasy spots, cheese and other food contaminates first. If your pizza box is clean and doesn't contain a large amount

of grease, it can be recycled in your curbside bin. If it's too greasy, simply tear off the top for recycling and trash the rest.

4 • Plasticware and paper plates

NO. Contrary to popular belief, plastic silverware and paper plates are not recyclable, even when clean. They are not suitable for recycling because of the odd shape of plasticware and the low quality of plastic and paper materials. Reduce waste at your next event by using durable, reusable plates and silverware instead.



5 • Paper milk and juice cartons

YES. Because of recent advances in the recycling industry, juice, milk and soup cartons are now accepted for recycling in your curbside recycle bin. Simply rinse them out when you're done and throw them in your recycle bin.



6 • Styrofoam



NO. Styrofoam is the misfit of the recycling world since it's made from polystyrene.

Unlike most other number six plastics, Styrofoam is not accepted in your curbside recycle bin because it can break into thousands of tiny pieces and contaminate other recyclables. The best thing is to avoid plastic foam altogether and find a more durable or recyclable option.

7 • Shampoo bottles

YES. These recyclable items are often missed by even the keenest recyclers. When you're done, rinse out the bottle and throw it into your recycle bin. You can even include the lid. This only applies to plastic containers and non-aerosol products.



8 • Red Solo cups

YES. The forgotten verse of that Toby Keith song: finish your drink, make sure it's empty and recycle your red Solo cup.



9 • K-Cups

NO. K-Cups and other single-serve coffees are growing in popularity. While K-Cups are convenient and come in many flavors, because of their size and material components, they should not be recycled. K-Cups belong in the trash.

10 • Aluminum foil

NO. It has aluminum in the name but don't confuse it with a soda can. While aluminum foil is recyclable, it is not accepted in your curbside recycle bin. The best option is to take it to a community recycling center that accepts aluminum foil. Visit recyclespot.org for locations near you.



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