

# Recycle Right—With These Easy Guidelines

## Keep it Loose

Hold the bag please. Put your recyclables loose into your container. The exception is shredded paper: put it into a clear sealed bag or a stapled brown paper bag.

## Just One Type at a Time

Packaging made from multiple materials (including paper, plastic, and metal—like shipping envelopes, product packaging, and food containers) is not recyclable unless you can separate materials first.

## Close it Up!

It's important to keep the lid closed as it keeps animals, birds, and rain out and prevents extra charges on your garbage bill.



## Keep it Clean—How Clean?

Spatula clean is clean enough for food containers like mayo, peanut butter and spaghetti sauce. Pizza boxes? Eat the pizza and remove the greasy bits.



## Break it Down

Remove all packaging and contents from boxes and containers, like tape, foam packaging, and bubble wrap, then flatten and put it into the cart.\*



*\*For extra and large cardboard that won't fit into the cart, contact your hauler for a bulky item pickup.*



## Remember the Five!

Instead of struggling to remember what not to put into your cart, remember these and leave the rest out, please.

### 1) Aluminum & Metal Containers



### 2) Glass Bottles & Jars



### 3) Plastic Bottles



### 4) Plastic Containers



### 5) Clean Paper & Cardboard



## These "to-go" containers just can't go into the recycling.



The black plastic food packaging used for takeout, roasted chicken, baked goods, salads, and condiments is not accepted. Why? When melted and mixed with other plastics, the integrity of the colors is affected, making it unusable by the manufacturers of recycled goods.

## Online Shopping Doubles Discards



The rise in shipping packaging has been referred to as "the Amazon effect."

USA Today reports that postal deliveries doubled to 6.2 billion between 2009 and 2018, with 95 percent of all products in the United States shipped in corrugated boxes.

**The good news:** The boom in online shopping and corrugated boxes has helped keep some U.S. paper mills running and people employed. Cardboard is easy to recycle curbside. It can be recycled into a new carton seven times. Recycling cardboard helps cut greenhouse gas emissions and reduces the need to cut down trees.

**The bad news:** The use of lighter-weight plastic and plastic padded envelopes has increased too; neither of these are recyclable. When plastic packaging is not removed from boxes, or if cardboard boxes get wet or soiled in transit, they become unrecyclable.

