

Dos 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)
- Aseptic containers (juice boxes, soy milk, some soup containers)

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
 - ❖ These are 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 so are 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 neck/shoulders (milk jugs, shampoo, peanut butter)

- ❖ Rinsed, caps removed

Plastic tubs 6 oz. and larger (salsa, margarine, hummus)

- ❖ Rinsed, lids removed

Planting and nursery pots larger than 4 inches in diameter, rigid (not crinkly)

- ❖ Cleaned

Buckets, 5 gallons and smaller (handles are ok)

- ❖ Rinsed, discard lids

Don't:

Plastic bags – return to grocery store or A&P Recycling

Pill bottles (too small)

Bottles that have contained motor oil, pesticides or herbicides

Caps and Lids – Not currently recyclable. Please throw away.

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 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)

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

Clothes hangers

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 (Put metal lids in commingled recycling blue bin)

- ❖ Do not include ceramics, Pyrex, baking pans, plates