

What can be recycled in Little Rock?

What goes in the blue bin?

All materials should be clean, empty and dry.

(from littlerock.gov)

GO - Plastic #1 and #2 (water bottles, soda bottles, jugs, detergent bottles, shampoo bottles) Caps on bottles are OK.

GO - Paper (newspaper, cardboard, milk cartons, magazines, paperback books, sticky notes)

GO - Metal Cans (tin, aluminum, steel, soda cans, soups cans). Please stomp to crush.

GO – Clean aluminum foil, clean aluminum pie tins, clean aluminum serving trays

GO – Cardboard rolls. The inner roll of paper towels and toilet paper are accepted in recycling.

What cannot be recycled?

NO – plastic produce containers, to-go food containers, clam shell containers

NO – single-use cup from a restaurant, coffee shop, fast food shop

NO – plastic bags, plastic utensils (forks, spoons, knives), flexible plastic (juice pouches, soap pouches)

NO – stretchy plastic (saran wrap, paper towel packaging, toilet paper packaging, bread sacks)

NO – paper plates, paper cups, coffee cups, napkins, paper towels

NO – aerosol cans

NO – glass (Get a separate glass recycling bin.)

NO – mixed materials (chip bags, chip cans, squeezable juice containers)

NO – hangers (metal or plastic)

NO – straws

NO – squeeze tubes or squeeze bottles or squeeze pouches

NO – sour cream containers, yogurt containers, or similar containers

NO – flexible plastic (sandwich bags, ziplock bags)

NO – Styrofoam

NO – plastic vinyl (shower curtains, tarps)

NO – license plates

NO- metal chairs

NO – metal cookware, metal water bottles

NO – nails, hooks, or paint

NO – propane containers

Arkansas Interfaith Power & Light

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More Information:

<https://www.littlerock.gov/city-administration/city-departments/public-works/recycling/curbside-recycling/>

Questions About Recycling in Little Rock

Should I put recycling in a plastic bag before I put it in the blue recycle bin?

NO! Do not put plastic bags in the recycle bin.

Can I recycle a peanut butter jar? – usually – if it is #2 plastic and if it is clean

Can I recycle a bleach jug or a milk jug? Usually – if they are empty

Can I recycle medicine bottles? Sometimes – over-the-counter pill bottles are usually #2 but prescription bottles are usually #5 and cannot be recycled. Do not put prescription bottles in the cart.

Should I put shredded paper in a plastic bag? NO! Put shredded paper in a paper sack and mark it “shredded paper.”

Can I recycle my pizza box? Usually not – because it must be clean and without grease.

Can I recycle cardboard boxes with tape? Usually – as long as the box does not have an excessive amount of plastic tape. It is best to remove the tape and flatten the box.

Can I recycle coffee cups? No. Coffee cups are not accepted in recycling because of the wax or plastic liner.

Please do not recycle any paper products that are capable of containing a liquid.

Can I recycle my cereal box? Yes. Just remove the plastic liner first and throw it in the garbage.

Can I throw junk mail in my recycle bin? Yes. Junk mail is accepted. You DO NOT have to remove the thin plastic window.

Can I recycle disposable paper products? No. Do not put paper towels, tissues, or toilet paper in your recycle cart.

The fibers in these items are very short and cannot be recycled into new paper products.

Can I put to-go take-out food containers in the recycle bin? No. Please do not put these types of to-go containers in your recycle cart. They are lined with either wax or plastic and cannot be recycled.

Can I put office paper in the recycle bin? Usually. Office paper is accepted in recycling. Staples are fine but please remove paper clips and binder clips. Please do not put laminated paper in your recycle cart.

Can I recycle empty tissue boxes? Yes. Empty tissue boxes are accepted items.

You do not have to remove the plastic window piece, but it would be great if you did! Thank you!

Can I recycle paper milk containers and paper juice containers? Usually. Beverage cartons are accepted unless they are multi-layers with mixed materials. Please make sure the carton is empty and clean.

What else can I do to help?

Use re-usable shopping bags.

Take your own take-out containers to restaurants so that you can take home leftovers.

Take your own metal straws to restaurants and take them home to use them over and over.

Refuse plastic straws that are offered.

Use a re-usable water bottle and a re-usable coffee cup. Take them with you.

Get a separate glass recycling bin for glass recycling days. Take metal lids off glass bottles and jars.

Take plastic bags, stretchy plastic to Target, Kroger for re-use.

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Why Is Recycling Important? (from EPA – Environmental Protection Agency)

Approximately half of global greenhouse gas emissions are the result of natural resource extraction and processing. When we increase recycling, we reduce climate impacts, environmental impacts, and social impacts of materials use.

Recycling keeps valuable resources in use instead of in landfills.

When we don't recycle, we increase the burden on our landfills and increase greenhouse gas emissions.