

## WHAT CAN I RECYCLE IN WILKES COUNTY?

### **Plastic:**

- Anything with a twist off lid like: milk jugs, soda or water bottles, detergent jugs, peanut butter or mayonnaise jars, some toiletries jars or bottles and some pill bottles (but not the small, amber colored vials you get prescriptions in from the drug store — they usually have a number 5 in the recycle triangle on the bottom).
- You can recycle the lids too but leave them on the container or they might slip off the conveyer belt at the recycle center.
- DO NOT recycle things:
  - like yogurt, cottage cheese, sour cream, or margarine tubs, or the plastic containers many fruits and vegetables come in
  - plastic grocery bags (Walmart and Food Lion do have bins where they will accept empty bags for recycling)
  - plastic bags or mesh bags that fruit comes
  - plastic chip bags or similar bags
  - plastic utensils
  - plastic wrapping (the kind that holds your water bottles together or comes wrapped around products like toilet paper)

### **Glass:**

- Any color or any size bottle
- DO NOT recycle
  - mirrors - they have a thin reflective coating
  - drinking glasses

### **Paper:**

- Newspapers, magazines, phone books, junk mail, scrap paper, boxes that things like cracker and cereal comes in, envelopes (even those with cellophane windows).
- DO NOT recycle
  - waxed cardboard boxes like milk or juice cartons
  - anything with food sticking to it like cardboard pizza boxes or paper plates or napkins and paper towels
  - colored paper - it dyes everything in the batch
  - shredded paper (you can use shredded paper as kindling or in your mulch or compost)
  - paper coffee cups - they have a thin coating of plastic or wax
  - wet paper
  - tissue boxes unless you take out the plastic film in the opening
  - post-it notes - that sticky residue can't be recycled

### **Metal:**

- Any steel, tin or aluminum can. Also foil trays or aluminum foil that is clean.
- DO NOT
  - recycle aerosol cans
  - foil food pouches

### **Cardboard:**

- Any kind of corrugated box. Please flatten it first so it doesn't take up so much room in the recycle bin.

#### Clean it or not?

*It's best to rinse out any of your containers, whether bottles, jars, or jugs. Especially get rid of food residue, which can contaminate everything else in the bin. Any kind of cleaning fluid (like Windex) needs to be rinsed out since it contains chemicals.*

## WHAT CAN'T I RECYCLE IN WILKES?

- Disposable diapers
- Ceramics or pottery
- Household junk like unused electronics batteries or wire hangers
- Hazardous wastes like oil, chemicals, paint or varnish
- Light bulbs
- Styrofoam
- Shipping envelopes with a slick finish or with bubble wrap
- Medical waste
- Clothing
- Wood

The Wilkes County Landfill accepts electronics & appliances — they charge per TV & computer monitor.

