CAN I RECYCLE THIS?

NORTH CENTRAL IOWA REGIONAL

NCIRSWA

SOLID WASTE AGENCY

RECYCLING GUIDE

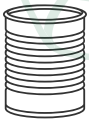
ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

NEWSPAPER

PAPER/MAPS

PAPER BAGS

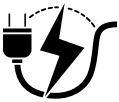
CANS



BOOKS

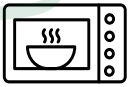
GLASS

ELECTRIC MOTORS



TABLETS

MICROWAVE



ELLIPTICAL

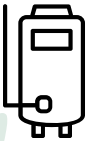
WASHER/DRYER

STOVE

VACUUM

REFRIGERATOR

WATER HEATER



& MUCH MORE!

There may be a fee for certain items.
Give us a call at 515.955.2781 for more information!

Plastic

Plastic bottles, jugs, and food container items must be EMPTY, CLEAN, & DRY!

DID YOU KNOW?

Not all plastics are economically recyclable. Unrinsed or food-contaminated plastics are a major source of contamination and reduce the value of all materials being processed. Because of this, many facilities now only accept clean, high-value plastics like water bottles.

No food remnants or dirty items!
No Styrofoam, drink cups, rigid plastic items, plastic bags, or shipping envelopes!

Cardboard

Wavy core corrugated cardboard items must be EMPTY, CLEAN, & DRY!

DID YOU KNOW?

Papers recyclability depends on fiber quality. Each time it's recycled, the fibers get shorter until they're no longer usable. Cardboard has the longest, most valuable fibers, but wet, oily, or food-soiled cardboard can't be recycled because the fibers become worthless.

No food remnants, grease, paint, dirty, or wet items. No packaging materials or cardboard with a wax-coating.

ALL CARDBOARD BOXES MUST BE BROKEN DOWN & FLATTENED BEFORE DROPPING OFF FOR RECYCLING!

Paper

Newspaper, cereal boxes, milk & juice containers must be EMPTY, CLEAN & DRY!

DID YOU KNOW?

Papers recyclability depends on fiber quality. Each time it's recycled, the fibers get shorter until they're no longer usable. Cardboard has the longest, most valuable fibers, but wet, oily, or food-soiled cardboard can't be recycled because the fibers become worthless.

No food remnants or used/dirty items. No shredded paper or padded envelopes.

Glass

Clear and colored food and beverage container items must be EMPTY, CLEAN, & DRY! Remove lids, caps, or corks.

DID YOU KNOW?

Glass is made from silica and is fully recyclable. Window glass, mirrors, and bulbs aren't used for food-grade containers and have lower market value. Because glass is heavy and costly to transport, only clean, food-grade glass containers are accepted for recycling.

No food remnants or dirty glass. No ceramics, fine China, fish tanks, glassware, lightbulbs, mirror or windows.

Metal

Aluminum or steel food and beverage container items must be EMPTY, CLEAN & DRY!

DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately 75% of all aluminum ever produced in the U.S. remains in use today, thanks to recycling. Metals can be recycled endlessly without losing quality, but they must be clean—food residue can contaminate other materials. Most facilities don't accept aluminum foil because it's rarely cleaned.

No food remnants or dirty items.
No aluminum foil or pans!

MAKE YOUR RECYCLING & WASTE REDUCTION MATTER!

RECYCLE ONLY ITEMS THAT ARE EMPTY, CLEAN, AND DRY.

OPT FOR REUSABLE GROCERY BAGS AND WATER BOTTLES.

CUT BACK ON SINGLE-USE ITEMS—SKIP THE STRAW OR LID.

CHOOSE DURABLE, REUSABLE COOKWARE LIKE GLASS.

PACKAGING MAKES UP A BIG PART OF OUR WASTE—PAY ATTENTION TO IT AND CONSIDER PRODUCTS WITH LESS PACKAGING.

North Central Iowa Regional
NCIRSWA
Solid Waste Agency

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

How do you know if you have a Household Hazardous Material (HHM)? Read the label. Look for the words “poison,” “danger,” “warning,” or “caution.” Any product that is reactive, corrosive, poisonous, or flammable is categorized as an HM. That would include products such as paints, cleaners, oils, insecticides, and solvents. Examples below:

Household Cleaners
Paints & Stains *Latex or Oil Based*
Oil & Antifreeze
Yard Chemicals & Sprays
Bug Chemicals & Sprays
Poisons
Pool/Hot Tub Chemicals

Gasoline & Kerosene
Paint Thinners & Removers
Batteries
Light Bulbs
Mercury & Mercury Switches/Thermostats
SHARPS *needles & syringes*

RADIOACTIVE ITEMS (E.G., SMOKE DETECTORS)
should be returned to the manufacturer.

AMMUNITION:
Contact your local police or sheriff for disposal.

EXPLOSIVES (E.G., FIREWORKS):
Soak in water, seal in a plastic bag, and dispose of in the trash.

MEDICATIONS:
Keep in prescription bottles and use local police/sheriff take-back programs, or check with your pharmacy.

REUSE

Reuse is even better than recycling!
Before tossing out something you no longer want or need, consider whether someone else could give it a second life. Many unwanted items—like clothing, shoes, textiles, furniture, and household goods—can be reused.

You can donate items to local charities, take them to resale or consignment shops, or list them online. Many organizations in your area accept clothing, furniture, kitchenware, and other household items, and a quick online search can help you find additional options.

No matter how you choose to pass items along, reusing them is always a better choice than sending them to the landfill.

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