# Recycling World has Changed!

The items on this page are the only items we wish to see in your recycling bin. We can collect, process, and sell these materials day in and day out and you can feel good about it.

Placing the wrong items in the recycling bins increases the cost of the program, lowers the value of the remaining recyclables, and affects the safety of our employees. Just because something is made of paper, metal, plastic, or glass, does not mean it is recyclable. Make sure you see it listed in the latest acceptable list posted on our web site, or your calendar.

If you are unsure, please ask us at info@bra.org or 1-800-265-9799, or visit www.bra.org

### Acceptable Recyclables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Printed Paper</td>
<td>Phone Books</td>
<td>Junk Mail</td>
<td>Catalogues</td>
<td>Brochures</td>
<td>Calendars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Packaging</td>
<td>Cardboard</td>
<td>Boxboard</td>
<td>Kraft Paper</td>
<td>Paper Cores</td>
<td>Moulded Pulp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic</td>
<td>PET Bottles&amp;Jars</td>
<td>PET Thermoforms</td>
<td>PET Clamshells</td>
<td>PET Jars</td>
<td>PP Bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic</td>
<td>HDPE Bottles</td>
<td>HDPE Jars</td>
<td>HDPE Tubs and Lids</td>
<td>HDPE Pails</td>
<td>PE Bags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal</td>
<td>Aluminum Beverage Can</td>
<td>Steel food and beverage cans</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>Clear and Coloured Bottles and Jars</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Recent Program Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Type</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cartons</strong></td>
<td>While cartons are a defined commodity by the ISRI Specification circular, they are a laminated product that needs to be kept separate from other commodities otherwise they become a contamination issue. Because of the shape shifting ability (2D vs 3D) this make them hard to separate even with the latest optical technology. Markets are not stable, price is low while handling costs are high. The material yield is approximately 58% as the plastic and aluminum layers are typically not recycled. The end product is downcycled into disposable paper products like paper napkins and toilet paper.</td>
<td>Buy product packaged in readily recyclable products and/or use refillable containers for lunches to reduce overall waste generated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aluminum Foil Products, Food Cans, and Aerosols</strong></td>
<td>Aluminum cans are the most valuable commodity in the blue box program but the associated aluminum products such as foil, pie plates, food cans, and aerosols are not desired in the commodity. Foil disintegrates in the smelter, food cans add impurities, and aerosols cause fires. In the past when aluminum was sorted by hand it may have been feasible to separate. Today, most facilities rely on an eddy current to recover the aluminum and the machine cannot tell the difference between foil and cans.</td>
<td>Dispose of foil products and aluminum food cans (cat food) in waste bin. Consider other cooking methodologies or alternative packaging.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aerosol Containers</strong></td>
<td>Some programs have accepted steel aerosol containers despite being classified as hazardous waste under regulation 347. They contribute to hundreds of fires in processing facilities every year, each jeopardizing the safety of the workers and they cause significant risks to the processing facility. Fires are the number one cause of loss of processing capacity in our industry.</td>
<td>Dispose of these containers with your hazardous waste. Consider manual pumps over the use of propellants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paint Cans</strong></td>
<td>Empty paint cans are readily acceptable with the steel cans collected. The problem here is the industry is converting to plastic paint cans with a metal top which are not recyclable. The new containers are not easy for the consumer to tell apart from the old steel container.</td>
<td>Buy your paint in metal paint cans otherwise return the cans to a hazardous waste depot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beverage Cups</strong></td>
<td>Beverage cups have never been part of our program but because the word got out that we were testing them for a while people assumed they were recyclable. Beverage cups are a laminated product much like cartons and they are even more difficult to separate from the rest of the materials and recycle in the end in part because of the ink used on the outside of the cups.</td>
<td>Use a refillable mug. If you need the convenience, then place your old cup in the waste bin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Small Items</strong></td>
<td>This is a new problem for us. In the 1990’s everything was large and club pack sized. Today, everything is becoming individualized in small sizes of greater variety. The bottom line is we are essentially trying to sort out confettis and it is nearly impossible. Now that quality matters (markets want 99.5% pure material) anything below a certain size has to be screened out to purify the rest of the materials.</td>
<td>Anything smaller than 3 inches will contaminate our glass or they will be screened out and disposed of instead of being recycled. Use reusable containers instead.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Not-Acceptable Materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Printed Paper</th>
<th>Paper Packaging</th>
<th>Plastic</th>
<th>Plastic</th>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Metal</th>
<th>Glass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
### Not-Acceptable Materials

**Hazardous Items**
- Batteries
- Needles
- Ammunition
- Fire Extinguishers
- Propane Tanks

**Leaf and Yard**
- Tree Leaves
- Stones and Aggregate
- Garden Hose
- Lumber
- Gasoline Can

**Plastic**
- Shrink Wrap
- Expanded Foam
- Bubble Wrap
- Beverage Cups
- Solar Blanket

**Tanglers**
- Unbagged Paper
- Christmas Lights
- Clothing
- VHS Tapes
- Bale Twine

**Small Items**
- Confetti
- Plastic Lids
- Metal Caps
- Metal Lids
- Small Bottle

**Engine Parts**
- Bicycles
- Scrap Metal
- Bowling Ball
- Biomedical Products

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We cannot practically list all of the items we receive every day that are not part of the recycling program. The point is that we can only recycle materials that are desirable in the marketplace to invest in them to recycle them again. You can wish that an item is recyclable when it is clearly not at this time, it will still end up in the landfill. You have the power to choose what you buy as a consumer. If you value convenience over the environment, then be prepared to pay the full price to dispose of that convenience also. Choose and consume wisely, and remember that when in doubt, leave it out…of the blue bin.