



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Justin M. Bibb

THE CITY OF CLEVELAND'S RECYCLING PROGRAM

List of Acceptable Materials



PLASTIC BOTTLES, JUGS, TUBS & DISPOSABLE CUPS

- **Bottles & Jugs:** The top of the container must be smaller than the base, usually with a screw on lid.
- **Tubs:** Butter tubs, yogurt containers, cottage cheese, sour cream, chip dip, and whip topping containers; single serve containers of fruit, pudding and Jello.
- **Cups:** Disposable plastic cups (not accepted in Central Kentucky)

TO RECYCLE: Empty and rinse the containers. Lightly flatten water bottles and soda bottles. Do not stack tubs. Reattach lids for bottles, jugs, tubs and cups. Straws and stoppers should be thrown in the trash.



PAPER, CARDBOARD, & CUPS

- Junk mail, newspapers, magazines, telephone books, paperback books, paper bags, cereal and cracker boxes, pizza boxes, cardboard boxes, disposable paper cups (paper cups are not accepted in Central Kentucky)
- **Helpful hint:** If the paper product tears and breaks down in water it is acceptable.

TO RECYCLE: Pizza boxes must be free of food and excessive grease. Cardboard boxes must be flattened and placed inside the cart or stacked neatly beside the cart. Plastic lids from paper cups should be removed and thrown in the trash.



METAL CANS & CUPS

- Non-hazardous and non-flammable material only. No scrap metals.

TO RECYCLE: Empty and rinse containers. Lids that are attached should be pushed inside cans. Loose pull top lids may be placed in recycling bins.



GLASS

- Any color of glass bottles and jars once used for food and drink.
- Mirrors, window glass, and drinking glasses are not acceptable.

TO RECYCLE: Empty and rinse containers. Metal lids should be placed loose in recycling bins. Plastic lids should be removed and thrown in the trash.



CARTONS

- Milk, juice, broth, juice boxes

TO RECYCLE: Empty and rinse cartons. Remove lids and straws and throw in the trash.

RECYCLING DOS & DON'TS

PLASTIC

- ✗ Buckets
- ✗ Clamshells
- ✓ Coffee cans
- ✗ Colored party cups
- ✓ Commercial size containers of salad dressing, mayo, mustard, ketchup
- ✓ Deli containers
- ✓ Disinfectant wipes containers
- ✓ Food storage containers such as Rubbermaid, Glad, etc.
- ✓ Hand sanitizer bottles
- ✓ Hummus containers
- ✓ Ice cream containers
- ✗ Keurig cups
- ✗ Kitty Litter containers
- ✗ Microwave meal containers
- ✓ Laundry detergent pods containers
- ✓ Peanut butter jars
- ✗ Plastic bags
 - *The exception: clear bags should be used to recycle shredded paper.*
- ✗ Plastic bottles of household cleaning products
 - *If the label identifies it as hazardous waste, it is not acceptable.*
- ✗ Plastic coat hangers
- ✗ Plastic flatware
- ✗ Prescription medicine bottles
- ✗ Shrink wrap
- ✗ Stoppers
- ✗ Straws
- ✗ Styrofoam
- ✗ Take-out containers
- ✓ Tofu containers
- ✗ Toothpaste tubes
- ✗ Toys
- ✓ Vegetable oil bottles

METAL

- ✓ Aerosol shaving cream cans
- ✗ Batteries
- ✓ Cookie tins
- ✗ Medical sharps
- ✗ Metal coat hangers
- ✓ Pet food cans
- ✓ Popcorn cans
- ✗ Pots, pans, cookie sheets, muffin tins
- ✗ Propane tanks
- ✗ Scrap metal

GLASS

- ✓ Ball canning jars
- ✗ Broken glass
- ✗ Ceramics
- ✗ Drinking glasses
- ✗ Essential oils bottles
- ✗ Makeup bottles
- ✗ Mirrors
- ✗ Perfume bottles
- ✗ Windows

CARTONS

- ✗ Styrofoam egg cartons

PAPER & CARDBOARD

- ✗ Amazon mailers with plastic liner
- ✓ Climacell boxes
 - *Styrofoam and cooling components must be removed.*
- ✗ Frozen concentrated juice containers
- ✗ Hardback books
 - *Pages can be removed and recycled.*
- ✗ Laminated paper
- ✓ Molded fiber for packaging
- ✗ Paper cups/bowls for mac & cheese, ice cream, etc.
- ✗ Paper plates, napkins, paper towels, tissues
- ✗ Pet food bags
- ✗ Photographs and "sticker paper"
- ✓ Post-it Notes
- ✗ Spiral notebooks
 - *Pages can be removed and recycled.*
- ✗ Thermal bonded paper (receipts)
- ✗ Tyvek
- ✓ Wine boxes
 - *Remove plastic lining.*

"TANGLERS" ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE AND INCLUDE:

- ✗ Bed sheets
- ✗ Christmas lights
- ✗ Clothing
- ✗ Coat hangers
- ✗ Dog leashes
- ✗ Electrical cords
- ✗ Hoses
- ✗ Plastic grocery and trash bags
- ✗ Ropes
- ✗ Shrink wrap
- ✗ VHS tapes



PREPARATION

HOW CLEAN SHOULD THE MATERIAL BE?

Containers should be emptied and rinsed. Some containers, such as peanut butter jars, require more effort.

WHAT IF THE MATERIAL IS WET?

Is it still recyclable? Dry material is preferred—Rumpke can more easily process and market the material. However, wet material is still acceptable. Please attempt to keep all materials inside your recycling container.

WHICH CONTAINERS SHOULD BE FLATTENED?

Always flatten boxes. To make extra space in your bin, we recommend crushing the cans. It's also best to release the air out of plastic bottles and then reattach the lids. We suggest lightly flattening water and soda bottles.

HOW CLEAN DO ITEMS NEED TO BE TO RECYCLE?

A quick rinse is usually enough. Certain containers, for example peanut butter jars, require more effort.

WHAT CONTAINER LIDS ARE RECYCLABLE?

Plastic lids can be recycled; however, please reattach them to plastic bottles, jugs, tubs and cups. Metal lids should be removed from glass bottles and jars and placed in the recycling bin. Loose pull top metal lids can be recycled. Plastic lids and straws should be removed from cartons, juice boxes, paper cups, glass bottles and jars and thrown in the trash.

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

IS RECYCLABLE MATERIAL RETRIEVED AT THE LANDFILL?

No, it is not. Rumpke can't safely, efficiently and effectively retrieve recyclable material at the landfill because of the volume received. Also, the material would be contaminated and not acceptable to the end users. It is imperative that consumers place material in the appropriate containers to go to the appropriate facility for handling.

WHAT ARE END PRODUCTS?

End products are items made from processed recyclables. For example, drainage pipe is made from laundry detergent containers.

ARE RUMPKE DRIVERS EMPOWERED TO REFUSE TO PICK UP UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS?

Yes, our drivers are trained to identify unacceptable items.

DOES RUMPKE INCINERATE MATERIAL?

No.

DO RUMPKE LANDFILLS ACCEPT RECYCLABLE MATERIAL?

No.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I PLACE AN ITEM NOT ACCEPTED IN RUMPKE'S PROGRAM IN MY RECYCLING CONTAINER?

Depending on the item, it's possible it will be transported to the landfill.

WHY CAN METAL LIDS BE PLACED IN RECYCLING CONTAINERS LOOSE BUT PLASTIC LIDS CAN'T?

At the recycling facility, loose plastic lids fall through the openings intended for the broken glass and are difficult to remove. These lids are considered contamination by the end users. If metal lids fall through the openings, they can be removed from the glass by magnets.

WHY CAN RUMPKE NOW ACCEPT CUPS?

Recent innovations in paper and plastic recycling have resulted in commitments from end users to accept and recycle more material. Paper mills have pledged to recycle paper cups and advancements in plastic recycling have increased the demand for additional types of plastic products.

WHY CAN RUMPKE ACCEPT PAPER CUPS BUT NOT PAPER PLATES?

Liquid can be emptied from paper cups, but paper plates are contaminated with food waste that can't be removed.

ARE SMALL PAPER CUPS ACCEPTABLE?

Yes. Rumpke will make every effort to recover small paper cups.

