



Recycling the Right Way

Good Intentions Aren't Always Enough



Most recyclers don't know what happens to their recyclables after they are placed out for curbside collection. This often leads to making guesses—about what or how things can be recycled—and some of what gets set out for recycling collection may actually be *trash*! This makes the recycling program more expensive and less efficient.

You can help the recycling program work better! This flyer describes some recycling basics. Still have questions? Call us at 301-600-2960, or send email to: recycle@FrederickCountyMD.gov. We also have staff available to present programs and information to your group or for special events; help us spread the word! **The more that residents understand what and how to recycle, the more successful and sustainable Frederick County's recycling program will be.**

A searchable database of what is and isn't recyclable is available in our free app! The app also provides reminders of your recycling day, plus texts, calls or other notification of collection schedule changes, and much more. Find the download link at:

www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/recycle

Please DO NOT:

- ✗ **Put non-recyclable materials into your collection container.** *When in doubt, throw it out!*
- ✗ **Place recyclable materials inside garbage or other bags.** *The only exceptions to this rule are shredded paper, which should be placed inside a paper bag, and plastic bags marked with a recycling symbol, which should be gathered together inside a single recyclable plastic bag.*
- ✗ **Leave styrofoam packing materials inside a cardboard box or other container.**
- ✗ **Leave foods or liquids inside of containers.** *All containers should be emptied!*
- ✗ **Recycle microwaveable plastics.** *This includes frozen dinner trays, take-out meal containers, and items marked "microwave safe".*
- ✗ **Recycle thin, brittle plastics.** *This includes takeout, fruit, bakery and deli containers as well as soda and other disposable cups—regardless of what number or "recycling symbol" is imprinted on the bottom!*
- ✗ **Recycle tissues, napkins, paper towels or disposable wipes—even if they're clean.**
- ✗ **Recycle used paper plates, greasy pizza boxes, waxed paper or any soiled paper products.**

Why NOT:

- ➔ **It makes the recycling program less efficient and reduces the value of the recyclable materials.**
- ➔ **Unlike garbage, recyclable materials must be sorted.** *This means that if items were placed in a bag someone at the sorting facility would have to manually open every bag—something that simply isn't feasible given the quantity of material collected from across the county.*
- ➔ **NO styrofoam of any kind is accepted for recycling in Frederick County.**
- ➔ **Liquids increase the program's expense and decrease its efficiency, success and value.**
- ➔ **Microwaveable plastics are treated to be highly heat-resistant.** *This makes them difficult to recombine with other plastics.*
- ➔ **They don't recycle well or have little market value.** *These materials are chemically and/or physically different from other similar-looking plastics, are difficult to sort and often have no reusability.*
- ➔ **These products have no recyclable value.** *The soft fibers of these products are too worn out for recycling.*
- ➔ **Unlike other materials, paper is absorbent.** *This means that once oils get on paper they bind to its fibers and cannot be separated.*