

Curbside Recycling Questions Answered

I was just leafing through the Fall/Winter Activity Guide from the City of Delaware Dept. of Parks & Recreation and I learned something new about recycling in our city—for those of us within the city limits who have curbside recycling. This is really helpful information so I thought I would just reiterate the guidelines as I am often asked about what can be recycled and what can't. If you are outside of the city, just clarify with your recycler what they take—you might be surprised as recycling is becoming more sophisticated.

The first thing to remember is that items for curbside recycling pick-up should be sorted into TWO groupings—Fiber and Non-Fiber (or paper-related and then everything else).

FIBER PRODUCTS: Paper & Cardboard (can mix these items together):

- *Accepted:* newspaper, magazines, phone books, catalogs, paper, corrugated cardboard, paperboard (like pop boxes, cereal boxes, etc...), paper bags, & pizza boxes (with NO food inside).
- *Not Accepted:* dirty/soiled paper, hard covered books, junk mail with plastic windows, plastic coated boxes, Styrofoam, packing peanuts, plastic liners from food boxes, food-contaminated containers/boxes.
- *Preparation:* PLEASE flatten all boxes and tear down large corrugated boxes into 2' x 2' x 1' high bundles

NON-FIBER PRODUCTS: Plastics, Glass, Aluminum, Metal (can mix these items together):

- *Accepted:* plastics with recycling numbers 1 & 2 (look in the circle of arrows for the plastic recycling number); glass that is clear, brown, and green but MUST be bottles or jars (with a neck); soda and food cans (MUST be empty and clean—no screw-on lids), aluminum foil & aluminum pie plates (cleaned)
- *Not accepted:* Other numbers of plastics, plastic contaminated by hazardous materials (like oil or antifreeze, etc...), plastic grocery bags (take these back to the store for recycling); light bulbs, drinking glasses, dishes, mirrors, windows, oven proof cookware, picture frame glass; dirty containers, scrap metal; screw-on lids, clothes hangars, pots & pans.
- *Preparation:* rinse residue from containers (plastic lids may NOW be recycled—yeah!), labels need not be removed, please do not break glass; remove steel/tin can lids.

Hope this information is as helpful to you as it was helpful to me. If you don't currently take advantage of curbside recycling in the City of Delaware, there is no time like the present to begin! For additional bins or for more information, please call 740/203-1810.

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