

FAQS

Frequently Asked Questions about Recycling in Dallas

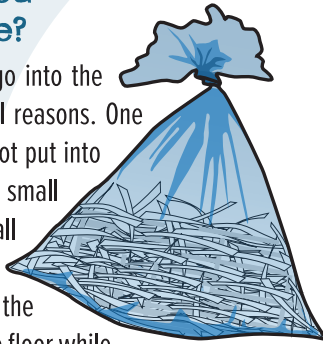
Are there size limits to items that I can recycle?

Yes, not all material sizes can be sorted correctly at the recycling facility. Recyclable paper must be larger than the size of a postcard and acceptable plastics should be larger than 2 inches but no larger than a two-gallon container.



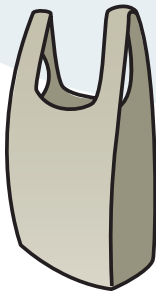
Why isn't shredded paper recyclable?

Shredded paper does not go into the recycling bin due to several reasons. One reason shredded paper is not put into the bins is because it is too small to sort—the pieces fall through the cracks of the sorting machines, stick to the belts and end up all over the floor while also contaminating other commodities like glass.



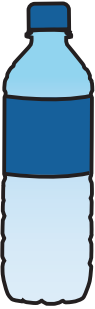
Are plastic bags recyclable?

No type of plastic bags should be included in your recyclables for several reasons. One of the main reasons is plastics bags often get caught up in the gears, cogs and other components at the recycling facility, causing an increase in contamination and a potential hazard for employees that must remove the obstruction. However, you will be able to drop off plastic bags and other food storage bags to be recycled at the grocery stores, if the items are dry and clean.



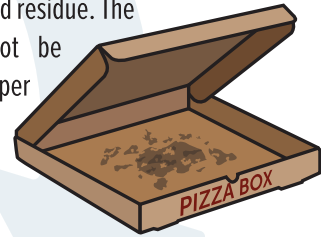
Should I keep the cap on my plastic bottle?

To recycle plastic lids, keep them on the bottle after you are finished with it. This ensures that they'll be recycled together. If bottle caps are loose, they will likely fall through the small openings on the conveyor belts and other sorting mechanisms at the recycling facility.



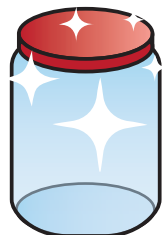
Are pizza boxes recyclable?

Yes and no. The top half of the pizza box can be recycled if it is clean and free of any food residue. The greasy bottom half cannot be recycled because the paper fibers will not be able to be separated from the oils during the pulping process.



How clean do items need to be, before recycling them?

A quick rinse for items like bottles and jars, is more than adequate. For paper and cardboard, grease and oil make cardboard and paper un-recyclable. If items like pizza boxes are covered in grease, then they should not be placed into the recycling bin but if the box is mostly clean with just a few specks of grease, you're fine to recycle it. As for items that are too heavily soiled, unfortunately these items cannot be recycled and should simply be thrown away. Any items that are heavily soiled or impossible to clean cannot be recycled.



Visit www.DallasRecycles.com for more information about recycling in Dallas.