

Why Aren't These Items Recyclable?

Recycling 101

Your cart items are delivered to a facility where the different material types – paper, metal, glass, plastic – are separated from each other, baled and shipped to a manufacturer. The better the separation of material types, the higher the market value of the bales. What you put in the recycle cart matters. Some products are difficult to separate (shredded paper), some are a fusion of different materials (paper coffee cups) and some are too small to recycle (prescription bottles). Items placed incorrectly in the recycle cart may end up in a bale of material, diminishing its value. Below describes why each item does not belong in the recycle cart.

Styrofoam is lightweight making it too costly to recycle. Bring Styrofoam packing peanuts to the Mansfield transfer station where there is a box for reusable shipping material. Otherwise, packing peanuts should go in the trash.

Air pillows and bubble wrap do not belong in the recycle cart because, like plastic grocery bags, they tangle in the equipment at the sorting facility, causing operational shutdowns. They can be reused (best option) or recycled (better option) by bringing them to the Mansfield transfer station. There is a box for reusable shipping material and a container for recycling plastic film.

Plastic liners in cereal or cracker boxes can tangle in the equipment at the sorting facility. Any plastic that is flimsy should not go in the recycle cart.

Slices of pizza & greasy pizza box inner liner- All products destined to be recycled need to be free of liquid and food residue. The best option is to save the slice of pizza for another meal. The next best option is to compost the slice and its greasy inner liner in a backyard compost pile or at the Mansfield transfer station compost pile.

Frozen food containers - Paper packaging stored in the freezer or refrigerator are plastic lined. They are not recyclable because the paper is fused to plastic making it difficult to recycle.