

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.

[Paper plates](#) are not just paper. Many brands have a thin plastic liner to keep wet food from seeping through. This fusion of paper with plastic makes it impossible to recycle, and food residue renders them unacceptable for recycling.

[Paper coffee cups](#) are not just paper. They have a thin plastic liner to keep liquid from seeping through. The fusion of paper with plastic makes it difficult to recycle. This is true for paper soup containers.

[Individual condiment packets](#) - Paper packets are usually not just paper. There is a thin plastic liner to keep out moisture. Plastic packets are too tiny to recycle and contaminated with food residue.

[Napkins, paper towels, tissues](#) either have food on them or they are wet, making them unacceptable for recycling. They can be composted in a backyard compost pile.

[Shredded paper](#) sticks to metal, glass and plastic, “contaminating” bales of these materials. Bring your shredded paper to the Mansfield transfer station where there is a container just for shredded paper. Keeping it separate from other materials makes it highly desirable for recycling.

[Paper envelopes padded with plastic bubble wrap](#) is paper fused with plastic. This fusion of paper with plastic makes it undesirable to recycle.

[Plastic envelopes padded with plastic bubble wrap](#) are flimsy and difficult to sort. Bring them to the Mansfield transfer station to include in the container just for plastic bags and film recycling.