



Did you know?

**One piece of garbage in a recycling
container makes it all garbage**

Put garbage in its place!

IMPROPER RECYCLING = \$\$



mixed recycling



paper, cardboard (flattened) and cartons only



metal cans, lids and foil only



glass bottles and jars only



plastic containers only

empty at a minimum, rinsed whenever possible

NOT FOR USE AS A LABEL: Rhode Island's official mixed recycling container labels are copyright and trademark protected by Recycle Across America®. Public and private entities should contact Resource Recovery for labels.

These items do not belong in your recycling bin or cart



no plastic bags, bags of bags, or recycling inside of bags



no more than a trace of food or beverage residue



no fiber that isn't paper, cardboard or cartons (e.g. textiles or wood)



no paper shreds, napkins, tissues, or paper towels



no metal that isn't a can, lid, or foil (e.g. pans)



no glass that isn't a bottle or jar (e.g. drinking glasses)



no plastic that isn't a container (e.g. hangers)



no foam containers



no containers from flammable materials or oil chemicals

Containers for mixed recycling in Rhode Island vary in color and size. If you're unsure of which container to use, ask your city or town's Department of Public Works, property owner, or property manager.

Follow these guidelines and you'll be a great recycler! If you want to be a SUPER recycler, get more details at RecycleTogetherRI.org.

For information on recycling, composting, or disposal of other items, visit RIRRC.org.





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no foam containers



no containers from flammable materials or oily chemicals

Put these items in the trash as well, and your recycling will be SUPERB!



NO wet-strength paper or cardboard:

- fridge or freezer boxes (e.g. six-pack carriers, frozen pizza boxes)
- paper cups (e.g. coffee, soup)
- powdered detergent boxes
- kitty litter boxes
- parchment or wax paper

NO sticker, contact, photo or carbon paper

NO rigid cardboard tubes (i.e. those you can't flatten)

NO paper pieces smaller than a 3" x 5" index card

NO coated foil (e.g. yogurt lids, juice pouches, candy wrappers)

NO plastic containers ≤ 2" in diameter and height, or ≥ 5 gallons

NO plastic containers that crinkle or tear (e.g. seedling trays)

NO plastic containers that shatter or splinter (e.g. CD cases)

NO plastic containers labeled "compostable" or "biodegradable"

NO items made of equal amounts of different materials

Follow these tips and your recycling will be SUPERB!



YES, keep recycling covered to protect from rain/snow

YES, keep recycling loose in bins/carts (i.e. not inside of bags)

YES, flatten boxes and cut down pieces to ≤ 3' x 5' x 1'

YES, keep paper flat (i.e. don't bunch up into balls)

YES, keep paper sheets intact (i.e. don't rip up into tiny pieces)

YES, rinse containers whenever possible

YES, scrape out as much peanut butter as you can

YES, store containers like detergent upside down to empty fully

YES, snip tail end off plastic tube containers to empty fully

YES, put plastic tops back on plastic containers before recycling

YES, take metal tops off of glass first, then recycle separately

YES, keep containers shapely (i.e. don't crush flat)

YES, bunch up clean aluminum foil to give it shape

YES, keep broken glass out of recycling that's emptied by hand



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Follow these guidelines and you'll be a SUPER recycler! Too much information? Download our basic guidelines at RecycleTogetherRI.org.

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DO NOT RECYCLE IN YOUR BIN OR CART



LEAF + YARD DEBRIS

You can compost leaf + yard debris at home: rirc.org/compost. For pick-up, check on your city/town's collection schedule. Leaf + yard debris can be set out in paper lawn bags, but never in plastic bags.



FOOD SCRAPS

You can compost food scraps (but no meat, dairy, or processed foods) at home too: rirc.org/compost. If you do not compost at home, all food waste goes in the trash.



PLASTIC BAGS + FILM

Take plastic bags + film that are clean, dry, at least somewhat see-through and at least somewhat stretchable to any large grocery, pharmacy or big-box store in RI. Clingy food wrap is trash.



TEXTILES

Take any dry, odorless textile (even torn, stained, or non-apparel items like sheets) to any "clothing" bin in RI. There is a bin at RIRRC too. No rugs, carpeting, or rags covered in hazardous waste (e.g. motor oil).



HAZARDOUS WASTE

Look for words like hazardous, poisonous, toxic, flammable, combustible, etc. Make an appointment to drop these items off at an Eco-Depot event: rirc.org/ecodepot or 942-1430 x 241.



SHARPS

Place needles & lancets in a hard plastic container, seal, and label as "SHARPS," then either schedule an appointment for dropping the container off at an Eco-Depot event, or place the container in the trash.



MEDICATIONS

Check rirc.org/meds for a local drop-off or separate medication from its bottle and ruin it by crushing pills and/or mixing pills + liquids with something like coffee grounds before placing in the trash.



E-WASTE

Check with your city/town for a local collection. RIRRC accepts TVs, computers, and computer plug-ins (e.g. mouse) in the state program: rirc.org/ewaste. Your local program may take "anything with a plug."



SCRAP METAL

Save scrap metal for an occasional trip to a drop-off center. Check with your city/town for a local option. You can also bring it to a private metal recycler where you may be paid for it: goo.gl/maps/5d700



FOAM

Check with a local UPS or FedEx store to see if they accept peanuts. For other clean, dry foam check with your city or town or bring to RIRRC for free rirc.org/dropoff. Spongy foam goes in the trash.



HARDCOVER BOOKS + MEDIA

Take donatable books, CDs, DVDs, and VHS tapes to any "book" donation bin in the state, such as Discover Books. There is a bin at RIRRC too: rirc.org/dropoff



COOKING OIL

Fats, oils, and grease should never go down the drain. Cooking oil (vegetable, corn, olive) can be dropped off for conversion into biofuel. Check with your city/town or take to RIRRC: rirc.org/dropoff



BULKY WASTE

Check with your city/town for a local collection of bulky plastics, tires, mattresses, appliances, etc. You can also take these to RIRRC (fees may apply): rirc.org/dropoff



REMODELING DEBRIS

Check with your city/town for a local collection, or hire a waste removal company. You can also bring it to RIRRC directly, for a fee: rirc.org/dropoff.



HYBRIDS

Items made up of equal amounts of different materials or 3+ different materials cannot be recycled. Find special programs at terracycle.net place in the trash.



EVERYTHING ELSE

If you are unsure about an item or want to find out if it is eligible for recycling through another special program not listed here, please visit our A-Z list at atoz.rirc.org.