



[recyclemoreminnesota.org](http://recyclemoreminnesota.org)

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## Recyclable materials terminology

Taken in part from: [http://www.swmcb.org/rethink\\_recycling\\_toolkit](http://www.swmcb.org/rethink_recycling_toolkit)

The SWMCB's Technical Advisory Team developed this terminology in order to overcome barriers and build consistency in recycling terminology and acceptable paper materials, cans and bottles throughout the Twin Cities metro area. The Recycle MORE Minnesota campaign encourages the use of these terms for statewide consistency of recycling terminology. Campaign materials should always focus on 'yes' items. Include the 'no' items and food box guideline when possible.

This list is suggested for cities, counties and haulers to use on their websites and program materials. The list of accepted materials will not be accurate for all locations in Minnesota, as guidelines vary greatly from facility to facility.

This list is made up of specific item types, not categories. It was suggested by the creative team to have more items listed, but call them by their common names. The list highlights the biggest "problem materials" first (i.e. pizza boxes and egg cartons). We also lumped like things together where we could. The food box guidelines are suggested for use wherever space is available, for example on a web site. Even with the clearer yes and no list, it's still easy to get confused. There is value in explaining why boxes from the fridge or freezer can't be recycled. There is also value in explaining why plastic cups and tubs cannot be recycled.

### Paper List of Terms:

#### Yes

Mail, office and school papers  
Magazines and catalogs  
Newspapers and inserts  
Phone books  
Shredded paper in closed paper bags  
Cardboard boxes  
Cereal boxes, cracker boxes, pasta boxes, cake mix boxes  
Shoe boxes, gift boxes & electronics boxes  
Boxes from toothpaste, medications and other toiletries

## **No**

Pizza boxes, egg cartons or boxes soiled with food  
Boxes from refrigerated or frozen foods  
Milk cartons and juice boxes  
Paper towels, napkins, cups and plates  
Gift wrap

## **Food Box Guidelines:**

Boxes from items meant to go in your cupboard (cereal, etc.) are generally recyclable. Packages for refrigerated and microwaveable products such as frozen entrees are usually coated in ways that make them unacceptable for recycling.

## **Bottles and Cans List of Terms:**

### **GLASS**

#### **Yes**

Glass food and beverage bottles and jars

#### **No**

Drinking glasses, mugs, dishes, cookware, pottery and vases  
Window and mirror glass  
Containers that held hazardous products, such as nail polish and hobby paints

### **METAL**

#### **Yes**

Metal food and beverage cans

#### **No**

Paint cans  
Aerosol cans  
Containers that held hazardous products, such as paint thinner and automotive fluids

### **PLASTIC**

**Motto: "Plastic bottles – 1 and 2 will do."** (bottles and jugs marked with the recycling symbol #1 or #2)

#### **Yes**

Plastic bottles and jugs  
Water, soda and juice bottles  
Milk and juice jugs  
Ketchup and salad dressing bottles  
Dishwashing bottles and detergent jugs  
Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles

#### **No**

Margarine, cottage cheese, cream cheese and other tubs  
Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups  
Microwaveable food trays  
Produce, deli and take out containers  
Plastic wrap and bags\*  
Toys

Containers that held hazardous automotive and yard products, such as motor oil and pesticides

\*Plastic shopping bags are recyclable at many metro area grocery stores.

### **About Recycle More Minnesota**

The Recycle More Minnesota campaign is a joint effort between the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Recycling Association of Minnesota to help increase awareness about recycling throughout the state. Established in 2008, we are working with our partners to promote recycling at home, work and on the go, with the goal of increasing the state recycling rate to 50% by 2011 through educational and social marketing efforts.

### **Help us track the use of this campaign!**

This toolkit was provided by the MPCA and RAM as a part of the Recycle More Minnesota education campaign. Please help us track the use of this campaign. Please send an e-mail to [info@recyclemoreminnesota.org](mailto:info@recyclemoreminnesota.org) with a description of how and when the materials were used and, if published, the estimated circulation of the publication. If you have any questions about the campaign, please contact us at (651) 296-6300.