

# 10 ITEMS



Can I recycle this? The 'yes' and 'no' of Lawrence's single-stream recycling.

## 1 • Shredded paper



**YES.** To prepare shredded paper for your blue recycling cart, place it in a clear, plastic bag and tie the bag shut. Loose shredded paper is difficult to sort from other items at the Material Recovery Facility. This is the one exception for plastic bags in the blue cart.

## 4 • Plasticware and paper plates

**NO.** Contrary to popular belief, plastic silverware and paper plates are not recyclable, even when clean. They are not suitable for recycling because of the odd shape of plasticware and the low quality of plastic and paper materials. Reduce waste at your next event by using durable, reusable plates and silverware instead.



## 7 • Shampoo bottles

**YES.** These recyclable items are often missed by even the keenest recyclers. When empty, rinse out the bottle and throw it into your recycle cart. Remove any lids.



## 2 • Plastic bags

**NO.** Plastic grocery bags, plastic produce and bread bags and plastic films are recyclable but are not accepted in your curbside recycle cart. These items get wrapped in machinery at the Material Recovery Facility where recyclables are processed. Many local grocery stores take plastic bags and films for recycling.



## 5 • Paper milk and juice cartons

**YES.** Because of recent advances in the recycling industry, juice, milk and soup cartons are accepted for recycling in your blue cart - just remove the lids!



## 8 • Paper coffee cups

**NO.** Paper cups are coated with a wax material to keep drinks insulated. In turn, the paper material is unrecoverable for recycling. Keep reusable mugs and cups on hand for all your beverage needs!



## 6 • Styrofoam

**NO.** Styrofoam is the misfit of the recycling world since it's made from polystyrene. Unlike most other #6 plastics, Styrofoam is not accepted in your blue cart because it can break into thousands of tiny pieces and contaminate other recyclables. The best thing is to avoid plastic foam altogether and find a more durable or recyclable option.



## 9 • Items 2" or smaller

**NO.** Small plastic and metals items - such as straws, bottle caps and lids sized 2" or smaller should be removed from their bottles/jars and not placed in the blue cart. Their small size keeps them from being sorted at the sorting facility.



## 3 • Pizza boxes

**YES.** You can remove greasy spots, cheese and other food contaminates first. If your pizza box is clean and doesn't contain a large amount of grease, it can be recycled in your blue cart. If it's too greasy, simply tear off the top for recycling and trash the bottom portion.



## 10 • Aluminum Foil

**NO.** It has aluminum in the name but don't confuse it with a soda can. While aluminum foil is recyclable, it is not accepted in your blue cart due to its flat dimensions and nonconforming size.



City of Lawrence

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