



# WHAT TO RECYCLE IN YOUR BIN OR CART



## PLASTIC RULE:

**RECYCLE PLASTIC CONTAINERS, UP TO 5 GALLONS IN SIZE ONLY. DISREGARD NUMBERS & TRIANGLE.**

EXCEPTIONS? No plastic bags or recycling inside of bags, foam containers, empty bottles from auto fluids/paint stripper/insecticides/pesticides/herbicides, compostable cups, or containers that tear or shatter.

EMPTY + RINSE • DON'T CRUSH CONTAINERS FLAT  
GENTLY REPLACE PLASTIC CAPS + LIDS • NO STRAWS



## GLASS RULE:

**RECYCLE GLASS BOTTLES + JARS ONLY.**

EXCEPTIONS? No broken bottles or jars.

EMPTY + RINSE • REMOVE METAL LIDS + RECYCLE SEPARATELY



## METAL RULE:

**RECYCLE METAL CANS, FOIL + LIDS ONLY.**

EXCEPTIONS? No foil-plastic hybrids (e.g. yogurt lids, juice pouches, chip + candy wrappers).

EMPTY + RINSE • DON'T CRUSH CANS FLAT • DO BUNCH UP FOIL



## PAPER + CARDBOARD RULE:

**RECYCLE PAPER + CARDBOARD THAT IS MOSTLY CLEAN + DRY ONLY.**

EXCEPTIONS? No sanitary paper (e.g. napkins, tissues, paper towels) and no waterproof cardboard (e.g. fridge/freezer boxes, coffee cups) EXCEPT cartons (e.g. juice, milk, broth).

✓ Please do recycle cartons.

TAPE, LABELS, STAPLES OK • DON'T BUNDLE PAPER  
FLATTEN CARDBOARD • DOUBLE-BAG SHREDS IN CLEAR BAGS



**ONLY shredded paper is accepted in plastic bags. Do not set out any other recyclables in plastic bags.**

# HOW TO DISPOSE OF OTHER ITEMS



## LEAF + YARD DEBRIS

You can compost leaf + yard debris at home: [rirc.org/compost](http://rirc.org/compost). For pick-up, check to see if/when your city/town collects it. 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](http://rirc.org/compost). If you do not compost at home, all food waste goes in the trash.



## PLASTIC BAGS + FILM

Take bags/film that are clean, dry + stretchable to any large grocery, pharmacy or big-box store in RI. No clingy food wrap, fertilizer/pesticide bags or any labeled "biodegradable" or "compostable."



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://atoz.rirc.org).