What goes in the bin?

How to be a better recycler
LET'S TALK ABOUT:

• GPTX Recycling Program
• Why we recycle
• What the recycling symbol means
• What goes in the bin
• What happens after your recycling is collected
• FAQs
The City of Grand Prairie implemented curbside recycling in 2000. Over the years, the program has steadily grown.

Approximately 25% of the households in Grand Prairie participate in our recycling program.

Grand Prairie residents recycle approximately 390 tons of material at the curb every month...that's 780,000 pounds.
WHAT IS RECYCLING?

Collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and turning them into new products.

Recycling reduces the need for extracting (mining, quarrying and logging), refining and processing raw materials.
WORDS OF INSPIRATION

There is no such thing as 'away.' When we throw anything away it must go somewhere.

ANNIE LEONARD
Why do we recycle?

**CONSERVES RESOURCES**
When we recycle, materials are converted into new products, reducing the need to consume natural resources which will help to protect natural habitats for the future.

**SAVES ENERGY**
Using recycled materials in the manufacturing process uses considerably less energy than that required for producing new products from raw materials.

**PROTECTS THE ENVIRONMENT**
Recycling reduces the need for extracting, refining and processing raw materials all of which create air and water pollution. As recycling saves energy it also reduces greenhouse gas emissions, which helps to tackle climate change.

**SAVES LANDFILL SPACE**
Recycling keeps materials out of the landfill that could otherwise be converted into new products. Saving landfill space also prolongs its lifespan which benefits the community.
WHAT DOES THE RECYCLING SYMBOL MEAN, ANYWAY?

IT'S RECYCLABLE RIGHT??

Not exactly...the recycling symbol doesn’t mean an item is always recyclable.
This is a problem because usually, when people see one of these recycling symbols, they automatically think, “I can recycle this!” and toss the item into the recycling. But the chasing arrows don’t always mean something is recyclable, and recycling the wrong items causes contamination in our recycling stream.

Contamination reduces how much of our materials actually get recycled, and it makes recycling more expensive.
DON'T BE A WISHCYCLER

• Have you ever gone to throw something away and you agonize for a nanosecond about whether it's recyclable? You decided to put your item in the recycling bin and think "If I make a mistake...someone will sort it out for me."

• This is one of the main causes of contamination in the recycling bin and it causes a lot of problems.

• You have good intentions, but you need to do a little more work to be a better recycler.
DECODING THE SYMBOLS

Plastic Resin Codes

PET, PETE (Polyethylene Terephthalate)
- Soft drink, water and salad dressing bottles;
- Peanut butter and jam jars;
- Suitable to store cold or warm drinks. Bad idea for hot drinks.

HDPE (High-density Polyethylene)
- Water pipes, milk, juice and water bottles;
- Grocery bags, some shampoo / toiletry bottles...

PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)
- Not used for food packaging;
- Pipes, cables, furniture, clothes, toys...

LDPE (Low-density Polyethylene)
- Frozen food bags, squeezable bottles, e.g. honey, mustard, cling films, flexible container lids...

PP (Polypropylene)
- Reusable microwaveable ware, kitchenware; yogurt containers;
- Microwaveable disposable take-away containers; disposable cups, plates...

PS (Polystyrene)
- Egg cartons; packing peanuts; disposable cups, plates, trays and cutlery; disposable take-away containers;
- Avoid for food storage!

Other (often polycarbonate or ABS)
- Beverage bottles; baby milk bottles;
- Compact discs; "unbreakable" glazing;
- Lenses including sunglasses, prescription glasses, automotive headlamps, riot shields, instrument panels.

Recyclable or Recycling only
Made from recyclable material
20%
FOCUS ON THESE PLASTICS

PET, PETE
(Polyethylene Terephthalate)
- Soft drink, water and salad dressing bottles; peanut butter and jam jars...
- Suitable to store cold or warm drinks. Bad idea for hot drinks.

HDPE
(High-density Polyethylene)
- Water pipes, milk, juice and water bottles; grocery bags, some shampoo/toiletry bottles...

PP
(Polypropylene)
- Reusable microwaveable ware; kitchenware; yogurt containers; microwaveable disposable take-away containers; disposable cups, plates....
WHAT GOES IN THE BIN?

THese are the items you can recycle in your curbside bin:

- Paper
- Cardboard/
  Paperboard
- Glass bottles
  & jars
- Plastic bottles
  & containers
  (1, 2, 5)
- Aluminium cans
- Milk & Juice
  cartons
- Steel & Tin
  cans
Mail, Paper
Window envelopes and glossy papers are fine.

Newspapers, Magazines
No need to worry about glossy pages or sticker ads.

Cardboard Boxes
Flattened, box tape still on them is fine.

Plastic Bottles
Water and soda bottles are extremely valuable in the recycling stream. Always recycle these!

Aluminum Cans

Food Cans

Juice/Milk Cartons

Paperboard Boxes

Glass Bottles/Jars
Prep your items for the bin!

**EMPTY**
Make sure all containers, jars, and cans are empty.

*full containers=contamination*

**CLEAN**
Rinse out your containers. They don't have to be spotless!

**DRY**
Items should be dry to protect paper and cardboard from becoming wet.
PUT THESE IN THE TRASH!

**Hazardous Materials**
Paint, pesticides, fertilizer, or their containers. Take these to household hazardous waste collection facilities or events.

**Propane Tanks**
Very dangerous for many reasons. Take these back to a vendor.

**Drinking Glasses**
While glass as a category is recyclable, drinking glasses and window glass panes are typically not accepted and belong in the trash.

**Wire Hangers**
Wire and plastic hangers both belong in the trash.

**Garden Hose**
A common tangler that breaks recycling equipment.

**Chains**
A common tangler that breaks recycling equipment.

**Metal/Wood**
Construction materials do not belong in the recycling stream.

**Wrapping Paper/Gift Bags**
Wrapping paper is typically coated with foil, glitter, or other items. Put wrapping paper in the trash. For a more sustainable wrapping paper option, use craft paper or newspaper instead.

**Ceramics**
Dishes, plates, bowls, and other ceramic items may have an extended life if taken to a reuse store. Otherwise, they belong in the trash.

**Tissues**
The tissues themselves should go in the trash (even clean ones). Used tissues always go in the trash, that's just gross. Once your box is empty, you can recycle the paperboard box.
WHAT DOES A GOOD BIN LOOK LIKE?

ITEMS ARE LOOSE
Do not bag recyclables!!

BOXES ARE FLATTENED
Place under bin if too large or on windy days

NO TANGLERS
No cords, hoses, hangers
YOU'VE RECYCLED, NOW WHAT?

GOOD JOB!

Thank you for doing your part!

FROM CURB TO MRF

Your recycling is hauled to a materials recovery facility...or MRF

ITEMS ARE SORTED AND BALED

Items are both mechanically and manually sorted, then baled, and finally sold to buyers who will turn the material into something new.
Something to think about

• Dictated by market demand, price determinations, local regulations
• Consumers play critical role—depending on how we use our products and in what shape we throw them away, determines their value and quality post-use.
• Recycled goods have to compete with new products in the market; who wants to buy something of lower quality?
PLASTIC BAGS...WHAT'S THE PROBLEM??

- When plastic bags/film are left in the bin, they tangle in the sorting equipment at the MRF.
- This causes shutdowns, which wastes time
  - Plastic bags must be manually cut and removed from the machine...slowing down the sorting process
PLASTIC BAGS...WHAT'S THE SOLUTION??

- Don't bag your recycling

- Don't put plastic grocery bags or other plastic film in the bin
  - Return to grocery stores
FAQs

These are common questions we receive on a regular basis

• Where can I get a bin?
  ◦ Landfill, Prairie Paws
• I live in a multi-family complex—where can I take my recycling?
• Are bins delivered?
• My recycling was missed, what do I do?
• Can I recycle _________?
• (When) will we get carts?
Starting January 1, 2021, blue recycling bags will no longer be accepted for overflow recycling. Please obtain a bin if you don't have one, or an extra if you're an avid recycler!
CONTACT US

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS

"When in doubt, talk it out."

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