

# Detailed Recycling List for Howard County, MD

## Paper (paper recyclables must be clean)

### YES

- milk cartons
- juice boxes
- newspapers & inserts
- phone books
- junk mail (even window envelopes)
- food & snack boxes
- paperback/hardback books
- greeting cards
- gift wrap
- catalogs/magazines
- tubes for paper towels & toilet paper
- shoe boxes
- paper egg cartons
- shredded paper (secure in a paper bag or white/clear plastic bag).

### NO

- food contaminated boxes such as greasy pizza boxes (boxes with little to no grease can be recycled)
- ice cream containers
- wax paper or waxed liners from cereal/cracker boxes
- paper towels/tissues/napkins
- paper plates or cups (such as Starbucks)
- foil-type gift wrap
- laminated paper
- paper that can't be torn easily (typically means there are plastic layers added)

## Cardboard

### YES

- corrugated cardboard

### NO

- styrofoam™ pieces - please recycle at Alpha Ridge Landfill
- waxed cardboard (bulk/supplier produce boxes)
- bundles higher than 6"

### HOW TO prepare for collection . . .

- cardboard recyclables must be clean
- remove plastic liners, waxed paper and styrofoam™ packaging material
- flatten all boxes to conserve space. If preferred, tie or bundle with string (no higher than 6")
- cut boxes to fit into the 2' x 4' x 6" opening in the recycling truck (i.e., the size of a large bath towel and thickness of a pillow)

## Metal

### YES

- aluminum, steel & tin cans
- aluminum foil/bakeware
- EMPTY aerosol cans

### NO

- propane cylinders
- beach or lawn chairs
- pots, pans or other scrap metal
- motor oil or other automotive fluid cans
- metal hangers

# Glass Bottles & Jars

## YES

- any color glass food or beverage containers

## NO

- window glass
- drinking glasses
- mirrors
- ceramics
- crystal
- fluorescent light bulbs or incandescent light bulbs
- CorningWare or Pyrex

# Plastic

You don't have to remove the lids or caps, just empty the container and screw the lid back on for recycling. Please make sure plastic items are no longer than 4 feet in length, 18 inches in diameter and less than 40 pounds.

## YES

- plastic bottles (shampoo, salad dressing, laundry detergent, etc.)
- milk jugs
- spray bottles (hair spray and cleaning products)
- pump bottles (lotions and soaps)
- butter and cheese tubs
- yogurt containers
- peanut butter jars (scrape out as much pb as you can, no need to wash)
- frozen food trays
- disposable plastic cups and plates
- milk/soda crates
- flower pots (clean, no soil or plant material)
- buckets (including buckets with metal handles)
- lawn furniture
- drinking cups
- water bottles (even the five gallon or larger)
- coolers
- totes and sweater boxes (best to donate)
- pet carriers (best to donate to animal shelters)

## NO

- plastic clamshell packaging for food, toys, electronics, batteries, etc
- plastic bags and film (see below for more)
- wax paper
- liners from cereal/cracker boxes
- crinkly wrappers for chips and snacks (granola bars, candy bars, pretzels, etc)
- toothpaste tubes WHY? They are a mix of many different components
- acrylic plastic
- CDs/DVDs and jewel cases (juice pouches (capri sun or other types)
- styrofoam™ - please recycle at Alpha Ridge Landfill
- K-Cups for Keurig machines
- motor oil or pesticide bottles
- hangers

## What should I do with plastic bags?

The best way to recycle your bags/film is to take them to a grocery or retail store. Most local grocery stores, and retail stores, such as IKEA, Wal-Mart and Target, have collection containers for plastic bags and film. This option ensures that the items stay clean and dry and can be recycled. Why shouldn't you put bags in your curbside bin? Loose bags, and even bundled bags, can get wrapped around recycling equipment and jam the screens at the processor. Plastic bags do A LOT of damage to the curbside recycling processor equipment.