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

recycle together RI

RHODE ISLAND RESOURCE RECOVERY CORPORATION

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: rirrc.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: rirrc.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, combustable, etc. Make an appointment to drop these items off at an Eco-Depot event: rirrc.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 rirrc.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: rirrc.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/5d70O

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: rirrc.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: rirrc.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: rirrc.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): rirrc.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: rirrc.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 or 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.rirrc.org.