What is Required to be Recycled in Wisconsin?

- Aluminum, glass, steel (tin) and bi-metal cans
- Plastic containers #1 and #2, including milk jugs and detergent, soda and water bottles
- Magazines, catalogs and other materials printed on similar paper
- Corrugated cardboard
- Yard waste
- Newspaper and office paper
- Lead acid vehicle batteries, automotive waste oils and waste tires
- Waste oils and used oil filters
- Computers, televisions, desktop printers, computer peripherals, DVD players, VCRs, digital video recorders, fax machines and phones with video displays
- Major appliances, including clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators, ovens, water heaters and furnaces
- Yard waste

Who is Required to Recycle in Wisconsin?

Everyone, everywhere, all the time! Wisconsin’s recycling requirements apply to everyone in the state, at all locations. This includes schools, public places, businesses, special events, homes and apartments.

Some communities go above and beyond what is required by law. Check with your local government or recycling center to find out what additional materials are accepted for recycling. For an updated list of materials banned from Wisconsin landfills, visit:

http://dnr.wi.gov  Keyword Search: Recycle

Questions?
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**Top Tips for Creating a Successful Recycling Program**

1. **No Lonely Cans.** Recycling bins should ALWAYS be placed next to a trash can – never alone. Lonely trash cans also mean recyclables will end up in the trash, too.

2. **Labels Make Cans Happy.** ALL bins should be clearly labeled with decals/signage. This includes trash cans which should be labeled ‘trash only – no recyclables.’ Pictures of items can also help. Make it easy for people by telling them exactly what to do.

3. **Don’t Make Tossing So Easy.** Too many trash cans partnered with recycling bins in too many locations create extra work for staff and extra costs to haul it all away. Select key areas that can be ‘trash hubs’ where people can both recycle and throw things in the trash.

4. **Pick the Right Bin.** Recycling bins should ideally look different from the trash can. For example, use different colored bins for recyclables.

5. **Ban the Bag.** If a bin is ONLY collecting clean paper, such as in a duel stream collection system, reconsider the need for a plastic liner. This can save time and money during collection. It will also encourage people to only place clean paper in the bin.

6. **10% Rule.** A little trash contamination in the recycling bin is okay. Generally speaking, contamination that is 10% or less is not a problem.

7. **Education is Key.** Establishing and maintaining participation in a recycling program is a constant challenge for any community. Everyone in the community will need encouragement, reinforcement and recognition for their hard work. Ongoing education and outreach can help build longstanding, positive relationships, attitudes and habits that will heighten the effectiveness of your recycling program.