Metal

ALUMINUM or STEEL Food and Beverage Containers

Items must be EMPTY, CLEAN & DRY!

No food remnants or dirty items

No Aluminum Foil or Aluminum Pans
Metal Recycling

The Solid Waste Agency accepts metal cans and containers for recycling from Linn County residents. There is no charge for this service. **All items must be empty, clean, and dry!**

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### Metals Accepted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum cans including deposit and non-deposit items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steel cans including fruit, vegetable and soup cans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Metals NOT Accepted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any container with food residue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum foil and pans including pie plates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wire hangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silverware</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**More about Metals:**

1. Nearly 75% of all the aluminum produced in the U.S. is still in use today because of recycling. Aluminum and other metals can be recycled again and again without degrading in quality.

2. Metals need to be clean. Food residue will negatively impact other recyclables during the sorting and recycling processes.

3. Many facilities will not accept aluminum foil for recycling because of contamination. People are unlikely to clean their foil before recycling it.

4. Hangers are not accepted for recycling because they clog machinery and damage parts on the sorting lines. These problems increase processing costs more than the value of the metal.

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For the most up-to-date information, visit [www.SolidWasteAgency.org](http://www.SolidWasteAgency.org)

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**Recycling Tip**

Patio furniture, grills, shelving, and other large metal items are accepted in the Scrap Metal area, located outside the Resource Recovery building.

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**Solid Waste Agency**

(319) 377-5290

1954 County Home Road, Marion

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**PLASTIC Bottles, Jugs and Food Containers**

*Items must be **EMPTY, CLEAN & DRY!***

- No food remnants or dirty items
- No Styrofoam, Drink Cups, Rigid Plastic Items, Plastic Bags or Shipping Envelopes
Plastic Recycling

The Solid Waste Agency accepts some plastic materials for recycling from Linn County residents. There is no charge for this service. **All items must be empty, clean, and dry!**

**Plastics Accepted**

- #1 PET containers including deposit and non-deposit items
- #2 HDPE containers including milk and juice jugs
- #3, #4, #5, #7 plastic food containers

**Plastics NOT Accepted**

- Styrofoam (#6)
- Plastic bags/film including trash bags, grocery bags, plastic wrap, pet food bags, feed bags
- Rigid plastics including buckets, garbage cans, laundry baskets, flower pots, toys, hangers
- Used automotive oil containers

More about Plastics:

1. Not all plastics are economically viable in recycling streams.

2. Plastics which have NOT been rinsed clean before recycling are a main contributor to contamination of the recycling stream. Food contaminated items decrease the value of all materials being processed.

3. China has stopped importing the world’s plastics due in part to food contamination. In response, the world markets for these plastics collapsed and their value quickly decreased.

4. Plastic processing facilities once purchased many types of plastic. Many now only accept clean, high-value plastics like water bottles.
Paper

Newspaper - Cereal Boxes - Magazines
Catalogs - Mixed Household & Office Paper
Milk/Juice Cartons
Beer/Pop Carriers

Items must be
EMPTY, CLEAN & DRY!

No food remnants or used/dirty items
No Shredded Paper or Padded Envelopes
**Paper Recycling**

The Solid Waste Agency accepts some paper products for recycling from Linn County residents. There is no charge for this service. **All items must be empty, clean, and dry!**

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### Paper Products Accepted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper, office paper, mail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazines, catalogs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereal boxes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown paper bags</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk and juice containers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frozen food packaging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Paper Products NOT Accepted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shredded paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrapping and tissue paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper with food, paint, or oily residue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Napkins, tissues, wax paper, paper towels, coffee filters, cups</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**More about Paper:**

1. A paper product’s recyclable value is measured by the quality of its fibers. Each time paper is recycled the fiber quality and length decreases. Eventually, the paper product is no longer viable for recycling.

2. Shredding paper immediately reduces the quality of the fibers and allows for the small bits of paper to fall through sorting machines ending up in the rejected materials.

3. Wrapping paper often has a plastic coating that processing facilities cannot separate from the paper fibers.

4. Because sorters cannot quickly determine which wrapping papers have plastic coatings, all wrapping papers cannot be accepted.

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Cardboard

Wavy core CORRUGATED CARDBOARD
Items must be EMPTY, CLEAN & DRY!

No food remnants, grease, paint, dirty or wet items

No Packing Materials
No cardboard with attached foam or wax-coatings
**Cardboard Recycling**

The Solid Waste Agency accepts cardboard for recycling from Linn County residents. There is no charge for this service. **All items must be empty, clean, and dry!**

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### Cardboard NOT Accepted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardboard with Styrofoam or bubble wrap attached</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pizza boxes with food or greasy residue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardboard that is stained or soaked with liquids</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardboard with wax-coatings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Recycling Tip**

Pizza boxes are often covered in food residue. If the top of the box is clean, tear it from the bottom and recycle. Then discard the food/grease contaminated bottom section.

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**More about Cardboard:**

1. A paper product’s recyclable value is measured by the quality of its fibers. Each time paper is recycled the fiber quality and length decreases. Eventually, the paper product is no longer viable for recycling.

2. Cardboard has the longest, most valuable paper fibers for recycling.

3. Wet, oil or grease soaked, and food contaminated cardboard renders the fibers valueless in recycling markets.

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Glass

**CLEAR and COLORED Food and Beverage Containers**

Items must be **EMPTY, CLEAN & DRY!**

Remove lids, caps or corks

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**No food remnants or dirty items**

No Ceramics, China, Fish Tanks, Glassware, Lightbulbs, Mirrors or Windows
Glass Recycling

The Solid Waste Agency accepts glass jars, bottles, and containers for recycling from Linn County residents. There is no charge for this service. **All items must be empty, clean, and dry!**

### Glass Accepted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beverage bottles</th>
<th>Jars</th>
<th>Containers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Glass NOT Accepted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Window and sheet glass including fish tanks</th>
<th>Mirrors</th>
<th>Bulbs of any type</th>
<th>Dishes, pottery, cookware, ceramics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**More about Glass:**

1. Glass recycled in Linn County is taken by Ripple Glass in Kansas City. It is made into bottles for Boulevard Brewing or insulation for Corning.

2. Glass is made from silica, the primary component of sand, and is completely recyclable.

3. Glass poses challenges in the recycling process. Broken glass mixed with other recyclables during the sorting process can damage equipment and injure workers.

4. Window glass, mirrors, and bulbs are not used to make food-grade bottles or containers and therefore have less value in recycling markets.

5. Because large amounts of fuel must be used to transport the heavy loads of glass, only clean, food-grade containers are viable for recycling.

Please drop off your glass in the **green recycling container** located outside the Resource Recovery building. Labels can remain attached to glass recyclables.

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For the most up-to-date information, visit [www.SolidWasteAgency.org](http://www.SolidWasteAgency.org)
Not Accepted

**No Styrofoam**
- Foam cups, plates
- Party cups
- Egg cartons
- Packing peanuts
- Carry-out food containers
- Formed packing pieces

**No Used Paper Products**
- Paper plates
- Paper cups
- Paper towels
- Tissues, wipes
- Tablecloths
- Wrapping paper
- Padded envelopes

**No Plastic Bags or Wrap**
- Grocery bags
- Zip-top bags
- Plastic wrap
- Bread wrappers
- Chip bags
- Garbage bags
- Pet food/feed bags
- Plastic packaging
- Shipping envelopes
- Bubble wrap
- Salt bags

**No Plate Glass**
- Windows
- Mirrors
- Fish Tanks

**No Glassware**
- Ceramics
- China
- Glassware
- Lightbulbs

**No Shredded Paper**

**No Aluminum Foil or Pans**

**No Rigid Plastics**
- Pet litter pails
- Buckets
- Paint containers
- Laundry baskets
- Garbage cans
- Storage boxes
- Hangers
- Flower pots
- Toys
Not All Materials Can Be Recycled

Recycling is market-driven. Anything could be recycled IF there is a demand for that product. Unfortunately, recycling markets have decreased in recent years.

Recycle symbols DO NOT guarantee it’s recyclable
This symbol indicates the type of plastic used to make the product. For instance, Styrofoam and red picnic cups are both a number 6 made from low-density polystyrene. There is no market for recycling this type of plastic in Linn County.

What happens if I try to recycle something that is NOT recyclable?
Unaccepted items in the recycling stream can contaminate an entire load of materials. Recycling processing centers reject loads that contain non-accepted items. If rejected, the materials are trucked back to the landfill for disposal. This added time and fuel consumption increases the overall costs for recycling.

Make your recycling and waste reduction efforts count!

1 Make sure items to be recycled are empty, clean, and dry!

2 Choose reusable grocery bags and water bottles.

3 Limit your use of single-use disposable items. For instance, decline a straw or lid on your drink when dining in.

4 Purchase reusable durable cookware such as glass or metal pie plates and roasting pans.

5 Packaging materials are a large part of our waste stream. Be aware of the amount of packaging an item has and consider similar items with less packaging.

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