

# 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**



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

# 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!**

## Metals Accepted

Aluminum cans including deposit and non-deposit items

Steel cans including fruit, vegetable and soup cans

## Metals NOT Accepted

Any container with food residue

Aluminum foil and pans including pie plates

Wire hangers

Silverware

**SolidWaste**  
Cedar Rapids • Linn County  
**Agency**

**(319) 377-5290**

1954 County Home Road, Marion

For the most up-to-date information, visit

[www.SolidWasteAgency.org](http://www.SolidWasteAgency.org)

## 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.

# Plastic



**PLASTIC** Containers   **ONLY**

PETE

HDPE

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



**No food remnants  
or dirty items**

**No plastics numbered**



PVC



LDPE



PP



PS



OTHER

**No Styrofoam, Drink Cups,  
Rigid Plastic Items,  
Shipping Envelopes  
or Plastic Bags**



# 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 PETE containers including deposit and non-deposit items

#2 HDPE containers including milk and juice jugs

## Plastics NOT Accepted

#3, #4, #5, #7 plastic containers

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

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Recycling Tip

All items should be recycled loose, NOT in a bag or box. Plastic bags will clog and damage sorting machines, adding to the cost of sorting for all materials.

## 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**



The window material in envelopes, plastic piece on tissue boxes and metal tear-strip on foil boxes can all remain attached when recycling these items.

# 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!**

## Paper Products Accepted

Newspaper, office paper, mail

Magazines, catalogs

Cereal boxes

Brown paper bags

Milk and juice containers

Frozen food packaging

## Paper Products NOT Accepted

Shredded paper

Wrapping and tissue paper

Paper with food, paint, or oily residue

Napkins, tissues, wax paper, paper towels, coffee filters, cups

Photographs

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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.

# 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!**

## Cardboard NOT Accepted

Cardboard with Styrofoam or bubble wrap attached

Pizza boxes with food or greasy residue

Cardboard that is stained or soaked with liquids

Cardboard with wax-coatings

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.

## 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



**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

Beverage bottles

Jars

Containers

## Glass NOT Accepted

Window and sheet glass including fish tanks

Mirrors

Bulbs of any type

Dishes, pottery, cookware, ceramics

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Recycling Tip

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

## 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.

# Not Accepted



## No Unrecoverable Plastics

Any plastic items numbered



### No Styrofoam

Foam cups, plates  
Party cups  
Egg cartons  
Packing peanuts  
Carry-out containers  
Formed packing pieces

### 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 Rigid Plastics

Pet litter pails  
Buckets  
Paint containers  
Laundry baskets  
Garbage cans  
Storage boxes  
Flower pots  
Hangers  
Toys

## No Used Paper Products

Paper plates  
Paper cups  
Paper towels  
Tissues, wipes  
Tablecloths  
Wrapping paper  
Padded envelopes

## No Shredded Paper

## No Aluminum Foil or Pans

## No Plate Glass

Windows  
Mirrors  
Fish Tanks

## No Glassware

Ceramics  
China  
Glassware  
Lightbulbs

# 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.

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Recycling Tip

*Keep non-accepted materials out of the recycling stream!*

## 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.