

Blue Box Tips

Blue box materials are sorted by hand and by machine. To help this process work best, please:

- Empty and rinse containers before putting them into the blue box
- Flatten cardboard and boxboard boxes
- Do not crush containers such as cans, plastic bottles, milk cartons or juice cartons
- Do not stack one item inside another (i.e. pop cans inside a cereal box)

Plastic bags and wrap do not go in the blue box. They can get tangled in the automated sorting equipment and damage the machines. To avoid this, please:

- Remove plastic sleeves from newspapers and magazines before recycling them
- Do not place your blue box materials at the curb in any kind of bag
- Remove all plastic wrap from drink cases and cardboard



Collection

Your local town or city is responsible for picking up your blue box recyclables at the curb and then delivering the recyclables to York Region's Materials Recovery Facility for processing. To find out when your collection day is, and for all other collection-related questions, please contact your local municipality.



UPDATED
AUG 2018



What happens to your blue box material after it is collected?

Your blue box recyclables are taken to York Region's Materials Recovery Facility in the Town of East Gwillimbury. Materials are sorted both manually and mechanically. This means you can put your recyclables in one blue box, rather than separating paper, plastic and metal. Once sorted, the materials are sold and made into new products.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

1-866-665-6752
york.ca/bluebox



FSC PENDING

BLUE BOX RECYCLING



WHAT GOES INTO THE BLUE BOX?

All containers must be empty and rinsed

PLASTIC

Plastic food and drink containers

- Bakery trays and clamshells
- Clear beverage cups (no flat lids)
- Clear take-out food containers
- Egg cartons (clear plastic)
- Tubs and lids (yogurt, sour cream)
- Water and pop bottles (lids on)

Plastic household containers

- Antifreeze and windshield washer bottles
- Baby wipe containers
- Containers (between 2" to 9" in diameter)
- Detergent bottles and jugs
- Household cleaning product containers
- Plastic bottles
- Plastic jugs
- Shampoo bottles



No foam containers

PAPER

Cardboard

- Cardboard boxes (flattened, tied and smaller than 2' x 2' x 1')
- Pizza boxes (clean)
- Shoe boxes



Newsprint

- Flyers
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Telephone books

Household paper

- Calendars and posters
- Envelopes
- Junk mail
- Note paper and sticky notes
- Office paper and pads

Food and drink containers

- Drink boxes or tetra packs (no straws)
- Frozen food boxes
- Frozen juice containers (lids separate)
- Juice and milk cartons
- 100% paper cups

Other paper

- Boxboard (cereal, cracker boxes)
- Bristol board (no decorations)
- Egg cartons/flats
- File folders
- Greeting cards (plain)
- Paper bags
- Paper packaging
- Paper towel rolls
- Toilet paper rolls
- Wrapping paper (non-metallic)



METAL

Steel containers

- Cookie tins
- Empty aerosol cans
- Empty metal paint cans (lids separate)
- Food and soup cans

Aluminum containers

- Aluminum foil (clean, rolled into ball)
- Aluminum plates and trays
- Pop cans



GLASS

- Bottles
- Jars

Remove lids and place separately in the blue box.



Don't know where it goes?

Use the Bindicator – York Region's online, easy-to-use waste directory for up-to-date information

york.ca/bindicator
or call 1-866-665-6752



WHAT DOES NOT GO IN THE BLUE BOX

- Batteries
- Expired medications
- Plastic bags

These items can be taken to local drop-off locations.



- Blister packaging
- Broken glass (in a box and labelled)
- Containers (smaller than 2 in and larger than 9 in diameter)
- Coffee pods
- Foil drink pouches
- Laminated paper
- Metallic wrapping paper
- Plastic bags
- Plastic film/wrap
- Plastic straws
- Take-out sandwich wrappers
- Take-out cups

These items can be put in the garbage.



Use Bindicator to find local drop-off locations.

- Clothing or shoes
- Dishes or flatware
- Garden hose
- Glassware
- Mirrors
- Pots and pans
- Toys

These items can be taken to a re-use donation centre.



- Aerosol cans (with contents)
- Batteries
- Compact fluorescent bulbs and tubes
- Electronics
- Fire extinguishers
- Fuel containers
- Metal coat hangers
- Motor oil
- Paint cans containing paint
- Pesticides
- Polystyrene/foam packaging
- Propane cylinders and tanks
- Shredded paper (with contents)

These items can be taken to a York Region waste facility.

