



# Recycling 101

*A Guide to Smart Recycling in Pinehurst, North Carolina*



[www.vopnc.org/recycling101](http://www.vopnc.org/recycling101)

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## Wish-Cycling

It's happened to most of us: you're holding a to-go cup, a greasy pizza box, or some used paper towels, and you realize you're not sure where it should go - recycling or garbage? You're thinking of the environment, so you toss the item into the recycling cart, hoping it'll get recycled. This is called "wish-cycling" and unfortunately, simply wishing for something to be recyclable doesn't make it so.

Wish-cycling begins with the best of intentions, but actually creates more waste in the long run. Wish-cycling contributes to contamination, and when a batch of recyclables is contaminated, it will most likely end up in the landfill. In other words, because of that one "iffy" thing you tried to recycle, literally tons of properly recycled items could be sent to the landfill. Even worse, introducing items that can't be recycled can damage recycling machinery, shutting down the facility until the equipment is running again.

We know you care about the environment and want to do the right thing, which is why we've created the Recycling 101 booklet. Here, we'll answer the most common questions we're asked about recycling. If you still have questions after reading through this booklet, visit [www.vopnc.org/recycling101](http://www.vopnc.org/recycling101) or contact the Public Services Department at 910-295-5021 from 7:00am-3:30pm.



# What is Recycling?

Recycling is the process of taking materials that are ready to be thrown away and changing them into reusable materials. These reusable materials are then turned into new and different products.

# Why Recycle?

Recycling benefits the environment and our community by:

- Reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills and incinerators,
- Conserving natural resources such as timber, water, and minerals,
- Preventing pollution by reducing the need to collect new raw materials,
- Saving energy,
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change,
- Sustaining the environment for future generations, and
- Creating new jobs in the United States recycling and manufacturing industries.

# How Can I Recycle?

The Village of Pinehurst provides three different carts for residents to use for solid waste disposal:

- The green cart is for recycling,
- The gray cart is for household trash, and
- The brown cart is for yard debris.



Simply grab your green cart, follow the guidelines in this booklet, and you'll be ready to recycle! Need a cart? Give the Public Services Department a call at 910-295-5021.

# What's Allowed in My Recycling Cart?

All recycling must be placed loose in your cart and not bagged. The following items are accepted in your green recycling cart:

**PLASTICS #1 & #2**  
Water/soda bottles, milk jugs, detergent containers, and cleaned food jars/tubs

*Emptied and rinsed*

**METAL**  
Aluminum beverage cans and cleaned food cans

*Emptied and rinsed*

**PAPER**  
Paper (not shredded), cartons and cardboard

*Flattened and without food debris*

# What's Not Allowed in My Recycling Cart?

The following items are prohibited and should NOT be placed in your green recycling cart:

**PROHIBITED ITEMS**

- Aerosol cans
- Car batteries
- Ceramic/drinking glasses
- Clothing
- Disposable cups
- Electronics
- Food/liquids
- Frozen food & other wax-coated boxes
- Glass of any kind
- Hazardous/medical waste
- Paper napkins/plates/towels
- Plastic bags
- Plastic toys/sporting goods
- Plastics #3 - #7
- Scrap metal/wood
- Shredded Paper
- Soiled pizza boxes
- Styrofoam
- Yard Debris

**- GLASS OF ANY KIND IS PROHIBITED -**

# What Should I Do with My Glass?

Glass is prohibited in the Village of Pinehurst's curbside recycling program. However, Moore County offers glass-only recycling drop-off sites throughout the county. These self-service sites operate from 7:30am-7:00pm Monday-Saturday and are completely FREE to Moore County residents. *Please note: only glass food and beverage containers are permitted. No ceramic, dishes, drinking glasses, cookware, window pane glass, light bulbs, or mirrors.*

**Aberdeen Landfill**  
456 Turning Leaf Way  
Aberdeen, NC

**Cameron Site**  
276 Crane's Creek Rd.  
Cameron, NC

**Carthage Site**  
5361 US 15-501  
Carthage, NC

**Eagle Springs Site**  
363 Eagle Springs Rd.  
Eagle Springs, NC

**Midway Site**  
10496 NC 24-27 West  
Carthage, NC

**Robbins Site**  
1465 Leaman Rd.  
Robbins, NC

**West End/Seven Lakes Site**  
605 Love Grove Church Rd.  
West End, NC

For questions, go to Moore County Solid Waste's website: [www.moorecountync.gov](http://www.moorecountync.gov) or call 910-947-3637.



**Q: Why can't I recycle aerosol cans?**



**A: Depressurizing aerosol cans can be dangerous, which is why there are warnings on the cans about avoiding puncture. Most recycling facilities consider them hazardous waste because of the risk to workers. Safely dispose of your empty aerosol cans in the trash and your full or partially full cans at Moore County's annual household hazardous waste collection event each November.**

**Q: Why can't I recycle aluminum foil?**



**A: Aluminum foil is usually soiled with food, which will contaminate other items in your recycling bin. But, even clean aluminum foil should not be placed in recycling because small aluminum foil scraps can clog the machinery.**

**Q: Why can't I recycle ceramics or glassware?**



**A: Ceramic can't be melted down at most recycling facilities, so it should be wrapped safely and placed in your household garbage. Glassware is not accepted at Moore County's glass-only recycling because it melts at a different temperature than other types of glass. Only glass food and beverage containers are accepted at the glass-only county drop-off sites.**

**Q: Why can't I recycle cling wrap?**



**A: Cling wrap is usually soiled with food, which will contaminate other items in your recycling bin. But, even clean cling wrap should not be placed in recycling because it jams recycling machinery.**



**Q: Why should I flatten cardboard boxes before recycling?**



**A: Flattening cardboard boxes makes them easier to transport and conserves space in recycling containers and trucks. Failing to break down boxes can also cause problems for the cardboard-recycling machinery.**

**Q: Why can't I recycle cardboard frozen food containers?**



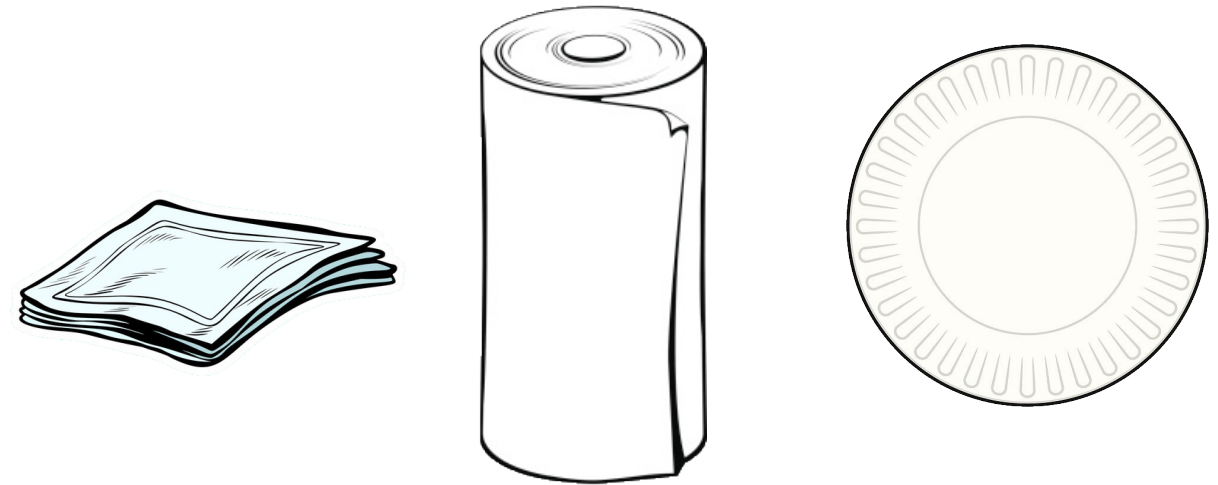
**A: The plastic coating sprayed on frozen food boxes doesn't separate from the paperboard, so the container can't break down as necessary during the recycling process.**

**Q: Can I put hazardous items in recycling if the container is plastic or metal?**



**A: Waste that could be dangerous or capable of having a harmful effect on human health or the environment is considered hazardous waste. These items shouldn't be placed in your trash or recycling carts. Safely dispose of your hazardous waste at Moore County's annual household hazardous waste collection event each November. Unused paint can be taken to Moore County's Eagle Springs site on the first Wednesday or third Saturday of each month.**

**Q: Why can't I recycle paper napkins, paper towels, and paper plates?**



**A: Two reasons: (1) There's no way to get food grease out of paper fibers during the recycling process. All it takes is one item with food debris, grease, or bodily fluids to contaminate an entire batch of recyclable paper products. (2) Many paper towels and napkins are created from recycled products and the paper fibers are already too short to be used again.**



**Q: Why can't I recycle paper, plastic, or styrofoam cups?**



**A: (1) Paper cups are actually lined with plastic to make them waterproof, which also makes them unrecyclable. (2) Styrofoam cups are prohibited because styrofoam is not accepted at most recycling plants across the country. (3) Most plastic cups are made from plastics #3-7, which are not accepted through Moore County's recycling program.**

**Q: Why can't I recycle my pizza box?**



**A: Pizza boxes are soiled by grease, cheese, and other foods when pizza is placed in the box. Once soiled, the paper can't be recycled because the paper fibers can't be separated from the oils during the pulping process.**

**Q: Why can't I recycle plastic bags?**



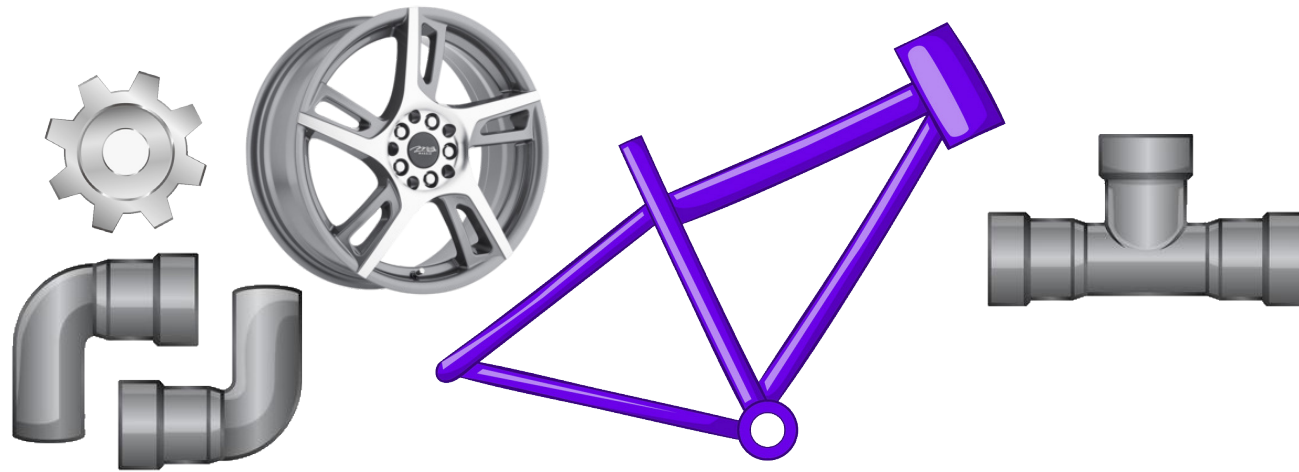
**A: Plastic bags get trapped around the recycling machinery and have to be cut away. *For this reason, all recycling should be placed loose in your cart and not bagged.* Many grocery stores offer containers specifically for recycling plastic grocery bags.**

**Q: Why do I have to rinse my plastic, aluminum, and metal recycling?**



**A: Food debris is a contaminant during the recycling process. Since we have a single-stream recycling process where all recycling is placed in the same container, one item with food debris could contaminate the other items in your cart, especially those made of paper. Rinsing will also prevent your recycling cart from smelling badly and will reduce the risk of animals attacking your recycling.**

**Q: Why can't I recycle scrap metal?**



**A: While scrap metal can be recycled, it should not be placed in curbside recycling. Cans are the only metals that should be placed in curbside recycling. Instead, bring scrap metal to any of Moore County's convenience sites (listed on page 7).**

**Q: Why can't I recycle shredded paper?**



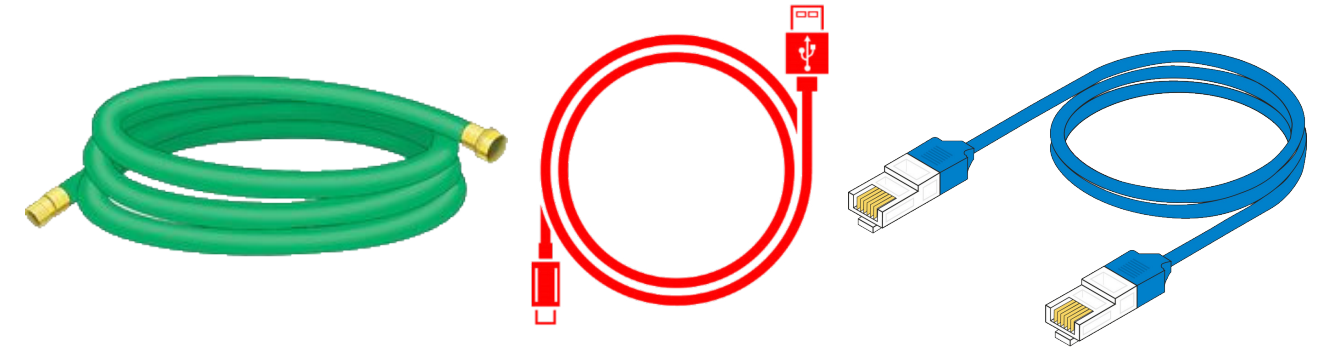
**A: (1) Shredded paper is so tiny that it slips right through the paper separator at a recycling facility. (2) Shredding paper shortens its fibers, which reduces the paper's potential for future use. Shredded paper fibers become too small to be useful or valuable to recyclers.**

**Q: Why can't I recycle styrofoam?**



**A: Recycling costs are calculated by weight. Because styrofoam is 95% air, recycling high volumes of it doesn't cover the cost of transportation, handling, and processing. It's also often contaminated with food or drink, and is difficult to clean because it's so porous. Unfortunately, styrofoam is more trouble than it's worth in the recycling process and most facilities across the country won't accept it. It's best to avoid using styrofoam altogether.**

**Q: Why can't I recycle cords, cables, and hoses?**



**A: In the recycling world, cords, cables, and hoses are called "tangles" because they wrap around the spinning discs and rotating conveyors at a recycling facility, bringing it to a screeching halt. Tangles (which includes other items such as bed sheets, clothing, belts, dog leashes, rope, and chains) should never be placed in recycling.**





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