

2021 Required Newsletter Article

Can I recycle this?

Be a confident recycler by focusing on the following items. **Do not use plastic bags.** Put recyclables loose in your recycling cart or use a paper bag. Make sure bottles, jars and containers are empty and dry before recycling. They don't have to be perfect — just free of most residue like food and liquids. Leave caps on containers and flatten boxes.

All recycling service providers in Dakota County must accept these items. If you're wondering about a specific item, use the online Recycling Guide at www.dakotacounty.us, search *recycling guide*.

Paper

- Newspaper and inserts
- Magazines and catalogs
- Mail and office papers

Cardboard

- Corrugated cardboard
- Paperboard (e.g., cracker boxes)

Cartons

- Milk and juice cartons
- Soup, broth, and wine cartons
- Juice boxes

Metal cans

- Aluminum, tin, and steel cans

Glass bottles and jars

Plastic bottles, containers and jugs

- Containers numbered 1, 2 or 5
- Soda, juice and water bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Margarine, cottage cheese, cream cheese and other tubs and lids
- Laundry detergent bottles and jugs
- Clear berry and produce containers

DO NOT put these items in your recycling

- Batteries
- Black plastic
- Clothing and textiles
- Electronics
- Food



- Diapers
- Plastic bags and film
- Shredded paper
- Tangles (e.g., chains, extension cords, hoses, string lights)

Free your bottles, cans and paper

Leave the plastic bag behind. Your bottles, cans and paper should go in your recycling cart loose – do not use a plastic bag for your recyclables. If you need a bag, use a paper bag. Plastic bags ruin the recycling process and don't get recycled because they:

- Prevent workers from seeing if bad items are mixed in with good items.
- Wrap around machines at the sorting facility.
- Workers must crawl into sorting machine to cut out tangled bags.



Plastic bags, bread bags, plastic wrap around paper towels and bubble wrap can be dropped off at grocery stores for proper recycling. Find drop-off locations in the online Recycling Guide at www.dakotacounty.us.

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