

# RECYCLING BETTER AT HOME

Recycling is a great action we can do at home to reduce materials going into landfill. Follow these guidelines to avoid common mistakes that make materials unfit for recycling.

## THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Roughly 1 in 4 items placed in a recycling container is actually not recyclable through curbside programs.

75% of America's waste is recyclable, yet we only recycle around 30% of it.

Landfills are among the biggest contributors to soil pollution – roughly 80% of the items buried in landfills could be recycled.



*Your actions make a difference!*

## THINGS TO PUT IN YOUR CURBSIDE COLLECTION

- Paper – Office paper, newspaper, magazines, and flattened cardboard
- Glass – Empty and rinsed bottles/jars
- Cartons – Food and beverage containers
- Plastic – Bottles, tubs, jugs, and jars
- Metal – Aluminum and steel beverage/food cans

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*All containers should be empty, cleaned, and rinsed before disposal.*

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## DO **NOT** PUT THESE IN YOUR RECYCLING

- \*Plastic Bags/Soft Plastic Film
- Food/Liquid Waste – Compost if possible
- \*Styrofoam
- Frozen Food Boxes – Coated cardboard is not recyclable
- \*Shredded Paper
- Pizza Boxes – Cannot recycle portions that are grease stained
- “Tanglers” – Cords, hoses, hangers, string, wires, etc.
- Propane Tanks & Other Pressurized Containers
- \*Medical Waste
- \*Chemical Waste
- Take-Away Cups, Lids, Straws, and Utensils
- Candy Wrappers/Snack Bags

\*= Specialized Recycling Offered

## SPECIALIZED RECYCLING

Many materials that are perceived as trash are actually recyclable, but require specialized processes to do so. Much of which is not offered at a typical Material Recovery Facility.

[Kane County's A-Z Recycling and Reuse List](#) provides information and places on where specific materials can be taken to be recycled or disposed of safely.



## UNANSWERED QUESTIONS?

Contact the Kane County  
Recycling Coordinator:

[recycle@countyofkane.org](mailto:recycle@countyofkane.org)

or

630-208-3841

Contact either your hauler or  
your city directly

Visit [Live Your Best Life at Home](#) on the Geneva Park District Website for more recycling resources

## KEEPING WASTE MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS SAFE

One of the biggest dangers to Waste Management Professionals is broken glass and tableware.

The best way to keep them safe is proper disposal. Here is how!

### Items You Will Need

- A piece of cloth, the thicker the better
- A hammer
- Gloves
- Thick soled shoes
- A box with a lid
- Strong adhesive tape
- Paper and a red marker

### What to Do

- Collect all pieces of broken material and safely secure the glass. Do **not** use newspaper. Sharp pieces can puncture through and cause injury.
- Once secure, break up larger pieces with a hammer. Wear protective gloves and thick soled shoes in case shattered glass escapes. Keep pets and small children away from this process.
- Place wrapped shards in a box. Secure closed with strong adhesive tape.
- Label box on all sides that there is broken glass inside to inform waste management professionals that caution is needed.
- Dispose in garbage collection bin.

Broken glass is **not** recyclable. Always follow these guidelines when disposing broken glass.

These rules also pertain to broken china, mirrors, and incandescent and halogen light bulbs.

\* If an energy-efficient light bulb breaks clear the room immediately to avoid exposure to toxic gases. Your health matters, it's best to take necessary precautions when handling the glass fragments and take all the pieces to a local hazardous waste drop-off facility.