

HOW TO RECYCLE WITH THE CITY OF ADA

The best way to positively impact the environment is to think about the product at the point of purchase. Is what you are buying recyclable? Or is it trash? Can you reuse it? Or is it a one-use item?

Recycling is an important City of Ada service. It keeps a significant amount of refuse out of the landfill, the space of which must be maximized to keep sanitation costs down.

Most importantly, recycling prolongs the life of the precious natural resources that current and future generations must share. By recycling the proper way, and improving the local process, both of these goals can be more easily met.

The Ada Recycling Center accepts only the following products: cardboard, paper, aluminum cans, tin cans, and No. 1 and No. 2 plastic bottles.

There are not a lot of rules governing local recycling practices, but there are a few guidelines that, if followed, will help ensure the entire operation is worthwhile to the City of Ada and, ultimately, its residents.

Removing Contaminants

Before recycling any product, please remove any contaminants. These are defined as any non-recyclable materials such as Styrofoam or films, such as plastic grocery sacks or large plastic garbage bags.

Most of these **contaminants** can simply be thrown in the garbage. Wal-Mart recycles small plastic grocery sacks. Removing **contaminants** from the recycling stream is one of the most important steps in the entire process.

When possible, simply dump loose recyclables into the appropriate bins. There is no need to bundle them, as the baler will take care of that later in the process.

Cardboard

There are only a few guidelines cardboard recyclers need to know. First, remove **contaminants**. Break down cardboard boxes whenever possible. A box is broken down by opening both ends of it and flattening it. Then place the cardboard only in the clearly marked, stand-alone blue dumpsters.

Paper

Recyclable paper can be newsprint, catalogs, magazines, white – or office – paper, and paper sacks. It is not necessary to separate the paper types before bringing it to the recycling bins. Don't forget to remove **contaminants**.

Aluminum Cans

As a rule of thumb, aluminum cans are softer and consist almost entirely of drinking vessels such as soda and beer cans. These do not have to be washed out. Please don't include **contaminants** such as plastic garbage bags when recycling cans.

Tin Cans

Tin cans are more rigid and have to be opened with a can-opener. These usually contain foods, although sometimes they will contain drinks such as juice or concentrated milk. These do not have to be washed out.

Paper labels glued to the outside of tin cans are acceptable. Again, the main thing a recycler should remember is to keep **contaminants** such as plastic grocery sacks out of the recycling bin.

No. 1 and No. 2 Plastic Bottles

The key when sorting plastics is to look at the number inside the recycling arrows on the bottom of the container. If the number is anything other than 1 or 2, it cannot be recycled in Ada.

No. 1 describes polyethylene containers, usually soda and water bottles.

No. 2 refers to a more high-density polyethylene container used for items such as laundry detergent, shampoo, and milk.

There is no need to wash out containers or to remove their lids before recycling them. The important thing to remember is to dump the sorted bottles loosely into the appropriate bins without adding **contaminants** such as garbage bags.