

Answers to recycling questions not covered in presentation Q&A

Answered by Joe Spair, Pellitteri Waste Management

Should boxes like cracker boxes be flattened?

We encourage all boxes to be flattened, they will still be recognized in the sorting process and take up less space in your bin if flattened.

Are silicone bags easily recycled and/or compostable? Do they really help the environment in terms of replacements for plastic bags?

Silicone bags are not recyclable in our single stream process. The benefit of using silicone bags is that they are reusable.

Is a coffee shop better off providing regular coffee cups rather than compostable?

I would say yes, because if they are recyclable they do not go straight to the landfill whereas compostable cups do.

Clean Sweep lists "Non-rechargeable batteries" is NOT ACCEPTED... Where can we take them?

For items not accepted at Dane County Clean sweep, I would refer to the Wisconsin DNR website for [alternatives](#).

Can peanut butter plastic containers be recycled?

Yes, as long as they are emptied and giving it a little rinse with some dish soap is helpful as well due to how thick peanut butter is.

Should the metal lids be separate from glass bottles? I had read to have caps on plastic water bottles and to not crush them when putting them in the recycle bin. Does it matter?

Yes, the metal caps should be kept separate from glass bottles. If you really want to recycle metal caps/soup lids you should put them into a larger metal can and then crimp the top shut to ensure they stay inside. Plastic bottles are ok to have the caps kept on but we do ask that any product other than cardboard be kept in it's original 3D form as it is easier for our system to recognize them that way.

Can small pieces of plastic be recycled if placed in a plastic container like a yogurt tub, or small metal lids if put in a tin can and closed?

Smaller pieces of plastic should not go into a container, rule of thumb is we can accept plastic bottles, containers, and cups. Anything smaller will contaminate other recyclables. Metal caps/soup lids should be put into a larger metal can and then crimped shut to ensure they stay inside.

[Also a website for other potential recycling like shoes.](#)