How Do I Prepare My Recyclables?

DO:

……Rinse all contaminants from recyclables: food residue, cleaning fluids

……Put plastic cap back on **plastic bottles**; No need to remove paper or plastic labels or plastic rings

……Flatten cardboard cartons

……No need to remove staples, paper clips or plastic windows from office paper

……Keep shredded paper in paper bags (not plastic bags)

……Put all of your recyclables (Paper, Cardboard, Metal, Plastic) **TOGETHER** into your recycling tote and take to your designated recycling area

DO NOT:

……Mix unwashed containers with other recyclables. Residue can attract vermin and insects; put hauler and processing plant employees in danger; may contaminate other material, and cause all recyclables to be trashed.

……Sneak in something that is clearly not recyclable. The resulting contamination will cause a whole load of recyclables to be trashed.

……Put paper or cardboard outside where it will get wet (keep in a covered container or hold for a dry day)

……Use black plastic bags to store recyclables. They will be treated as trash.

REMEMBER—if recyclables aren't prepared properly, they're trashed!

FAQ—Can I Recycle ….??

Hardback Books: YES—The paper in many hardback books is of excellent quality for recycling; BUT, the hard cover must be removed. Putting books with hard covers in the recycling bin will cause the entire book to be landfilled.

Softback Books: YES—Leave the covers on.

Spiralbound notebooks: YES—No need to remove metal spiral unless you want to make the effort.

Shredded paper: YES—Collect and store in paper bags; keep in bags and put in curbside recycling bin or neighborhood drop-off bin.

Three-ring Binders: NO—thermoplastic-covered binders cannot be recycled locally. Try finding someplace to donate them (schools, churches, non-profit offices, etc.)

Light bulbs: NO—Incandescent bulbs cannot be recycled; they must be treated as trash; Compact fluorescent and fluorescent tubes can be recycled at community collections.

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Contact Westmoreland Cleanways and Recycling (your county recycling coordinator) for disposal options for hard to recycle items.

Single Stream Recycling Quick Reference Guide

What Goes In.. To My Single Stream Bin???

www.westmorelandcleanways.org

355 Pleasant Unity Mutual Road
Greensburg, PA 15601-6388
Phone: 724-879-4020
Fax: 724-879-8576
info@westmorelandcleanways.org

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SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING
Quick Reference Guide

Recycling is easier than ever, thanks to Single Stream Recycling. Combine all of your recyclables in **ONE** recycling bin and put that **ONE** container out on recycling day. Just a few simple guidelines make it easier for everyone:

- NO SORTING REQUIRED
- RINSE CONTAINERS (REMOVE FOOD RESIDUE)
- KEEP PAPER DRY
- TAKE TO DESIGNATED RECYCLING AREA

It's estimated that up to 85% of your "trash" is recyclable. See how much you can keep out of the landfill!!

As you review this information, keep in mind:

PLEASE recycle. Manufacturing using recycled material is cleaner and more energy efficient than using raw material. It saves energy, water, and limited natural resources.

If in doubt, call Westmoreland Cleanways (your county recycling coordinators). Many items are recyclable, just not in your curbside recycling program.

There's a proper way to dispose of just about anything. Take the time to ask.

What Goes In... To My Single Stream Bin?

YES: Paper and Cardboard
- Corrugated cardboard (boxes)
- Magazines
- Office Paper (all colors)
- Newspaper (B&W, color and shiny inserts)
- Paperboard (cereal boxes, aka chipboard)
- Cartons: shelf stable or refrigerated (milk cartons/juice/broth)
- Junk mail (including window envelopes)
- Telephone books

YES: Metals
- Aluminum cans
- Steel and/or tin cans

YES: Plastics (jars, jugs, bottles, tubs)
- #1 and #2
- Plastic bottle caps (left ON the bottle)

NO: Paper and Cardboard
- Used tissues, bathroom waste
- Used paper napkins
- Waxed paper
- Greasy pizza boxes, fast food wrappers
- Mixed metal and paper (foil-lined Christmas paper)

NO: Metals
- Jar or can lids
- Hardware (automotive, plumbing, construction parts)
- Paint cans with wet or dried-on paint
- Electronics
- Furniture, wire coat hangers

NO: Glass
- Clear glass (bottles and jars)
- Brown or amber glass (like beer bottles)
- Green bottles (like beer or wine bottles)
- Dirty glass (contaminated with dirt or food waste)
- Ceramics, pottery
- Heat-resistant glass (Pyrex, baking dishes)
- Sheet glass (mirror, window, automotive)
- Crystal
- Light bulbs (incandescent or fluorescent)
- Video screens (TVs, computer monitors)

NO: Plastics
- Containers that contained harsh chemicals
- Rigid plastics: children's toys, furniture, tools
- Automotive or Construction material: pipe, tubing, vinyl siding, floor mats
- # 6: expanded Polystyrene (Styrofoam) cups and dishes, grocery trays, egg cartons, packing peanuts, packing material
- #6: solid Polystyrene (CD cases, blister paks)
- Film plastic: grocery bags, dry-cleaning bags, shrink wrap, packaging wrap
- Agricultural plastic: plant pots and trays; Anything contaminated with food or dirt
- PLA (made from plants) cannot be mixed with petroleum-based plastics.

With rapidly changing recycling guidelines, contact your hauler for information specific to your curbside program