

Dear Recycle Lady



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Are orange juice cardboard cartons considered unacceptable for recycling as they are wax coated inside the carton? Wondering

Dear Wondering,

It has long been thought that juice and milk cartons have a wax coating on the inside of the carton. However, according to earth911.com, modern cartons no longer contain any wax and haven't for many years. Today's cartons are now made mainly from paper. Gable-top (or refrigerated) cartons, such as milk cartons, contain additional layers of plastic, while aseptic (or shelf-stable) cartons, such as cereals or foods with very low moisture content, contain additional layers of plastic and aluminum. Both types of these cartons are designed to keep the product inside as fresh as possible, blocking out light and air that may cause products to spoil. Some recycling centers are equipped to recycle these boxes, but our local Recycling Center is not able to accept any cardboard cartons that held liquid.

Dear Recycle Lady,

This year, I received many beautiful Christmas cards from friends far and wide. They are too nice to put in the trash. Do you know of any place that could use them? Love Christmas Cards

Dear Love Christmas Cards,

There are several places that would be delighted to "repurpose" your Christmas cards. Art teachers, especially in the lower grades, use them for craft projects. The Scouts, Sunday Schools and Senior Centers also can use them for craft projects. Cards can be sent to St. Jude's Ranch for Children, PO Box 60100, Boulder City, NV 89006-0100. Before giving cards to any organization tear off the signature page, which can then be recycled with paper or magazines. Cards can be made into gift tags for next year's Christmas gifts, new Christmas tree decorations and many, many craft projects. Cards with no writing on the back of the front page work best. The cost of mailing cards is minimal as they can be sent by media mail.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Can Carole Wright type catalogs be recycled and if so, would they go in with newspapers or magazines? Are other catalogs accepted with magazines? Too Many Catalogs

Dear Too Many Catalogs,

I am not familiar with the Carole Wright catalog, so I am unable to give you a definitive answer. However, if you dampen a corner of the cover page and wait a couple seconds you will have an answer. If the corner tears easily, the catalog is printed on newsprint and it recycles with newspapers. Otherwise, recycle it with magazines, which is where most catalogs are recycled.