

Dear Recycle Lady



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Last time I was at the Recycling Center I noticed that aluminum pie pans & aluminum foil goes in the same bin. I thought they had to go in separate bags or bins. Also, I noticed that one of the signs on the aluminum pie/foil bin said silver aluminum only. I have a red aluminum pan. Can it be recycled?

Recycler

Dear Recycler,

Aluminum foil and aluminum pans are now combined in the same bin or bag and any color aluminum is recyclable. The problem is whether or not the foil is actually aluminum foil. The sign was put up quite a while ago because fake aluminum foil was being put in the bin. Fake foils are "look-a-likes" that appear to be aluminum foil, but they are not. For example, when you open a bag of potato chips, the inside part of the bag looks like it is foil. To see if the bag really is aluminum foil, do this quick test. Crumble it up. If it stays crumbled, it is aluminum. If it unfolds, it is not. Thanks for calling the sign to our attention. Since it is no longer needed, it has been taken down. Make sure your pans and foil are clean before recycling them. One dirty pan or dirty foil can contaminate the items around them, and they are no longer recyclable. Large cities have special equipment to clean all items, but that equipment is not available here.

Dear Recycle Lady,

I have several aerosol cans that are partially full. Can they be recycled, or should I empty them first?

Spray Can User

Dear Spray Can User,

Aerosol cans cannot be recycled until they are empty. Anything left in an aerosol can is considered hazardous waste (including whipped cream and hairspray). The Recycling Center does accept these cans, and they go in the bag or bin with steel cans.

Dear Readers,

In my research this week, I discovered that there are 346 cities, towns, and counties in 25 states that have banned plastic bags. Several of these cities, towns and counties now charge a 5- or 10-cent fee for a paper bag. It will take a while to remember to bring reusable bags when shopping, but it's worth the effort. Also, there are 113 cities, towns, or counties in 12 states have banned Styrofoam. Three states, Maine, Maryland and just recently, New York, have put into effort a state-wide ban of Styrofoam. No city, town or county in West Virginia is on either one of these lists. These bans are a result of grassroots efforts by local citizens. Any one interested in taking up this challenge in Greenbrier County? If so, send me an email, and let's get the process started. P.S. Kudos to our local Kroger store for transitioning from plastic bags to reusable bags in the near future.

Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests to recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com. Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.