

Dear Recycle Lady



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Dear Recycle Lady,

How do I recycle aluminum foil? Does it go in bin with the aluminum cans? Foiled in Lewisburg

**Dear Foiled in Lewisburg,**

**No, aluminum foil doesn't go with aluminum cans, but goes in a separate bag/bin with pie pans. Don't be fooled by the "fake" aluminum bags inside a cracker or chip box or bag. It appears to be aluminum on one side, but it isn't. Test it. If you crumble up a piece of aluminum, it will stay in a ball. If it isn't, it unwraps itself. According to earth 911.com, "aluminum is one of the highest-value materials you can recycle and can be reprocessed into new aluminum in only 60 days. Although nearly 75 percent of aluminum produced in the U.S. is still being used, Americans dispose of enough aluminum foil each year to annually to build an entire aircraft fleet." Aluminum foil is 100% recyclable, so please take the time to clean it, put it in a separate bag and send it to be recycled.**

Dear Recycle Lady,

Last week, someone asked about recycling greeting cards and whether to put them in with magazines or paper. Your answer was to always put them in with magazines. Sometimes I can't tell the difference between newspaper advertisements. Some look like they could be a glossy and some appear to be colorful newspaper. Should they also all be put in with magazines? Glossy or newspaper? Confused

**Dear Confused,**

**You are not the only one that is confused. My answer to the question about greeting cards was not exactly correct. When doing some research on recycling cards, I discovered that there is a better answer. First of all, glossy or slicks are described as looking like photographs. Using that description, a few greeting cards are glossy and they go in with magazines. However, most greeting cards, thank you notes, announcements, and postcards are matte and they go in with office paper. Color is a not a factor, unless it is glossy. What difference does it make whether a card is put in with paper or magazines? The difference is that office paper is worth several times what magazines are worth at a paper mill. The same is true with the newspaper advertisements. Glossy looking ads go in with magazines, all other ads stay in the newspaper. Just as office paper is worth more than magazines, so are newspapers worth more than magazines.**

Dear Recycle Lady,

I brought my cardboard to recycling last week and was shocked to see what someone had put in the bin--used pizza boxes. Greasy cardboard cannot be recycled. It is wonderful that people want to recycle, but they need to know what can be recycled. Greasy cardboard should be put in the trash. Not So Happy Recycler

**Dear Not So Happy Recycler,**

**You are absolutely correct. Greasy cardboard, of any kind, must not be recycled. It only takes one greasy item to contaminate an entire batch. Cleanliness is not only important when recycling cardboard, but it is critical for everything that goes to recycling so that contamination doesn't happen. When recycling cardboard boxes don't forget to remove any packing materials, such as plastic, foam or Styrofoam peanuts. You do not need to flatten the boxes before recycling. Recycling cardboard important because it saves energy and it takes up so much space in the landfill. (Cardboard is the single largest component of municipal solid waste around the world.) To make new boxes out of recycled cardboard requires only 75% of the energy used to make new cardboard. Definitely better for our environment.**

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