

Dear Recycle Lady



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Dear Recycle Lady,

With all the rain we have been having, sometimes my morning newspaper gets sopping wet. Is it still recyclable?

A Reader

Dear Reader

Yes, wet newspapers can be recycled if they are dried out first; just be sure the newspapers are clean. Toss any food-soiled newspaper in the trash or remove all soiled portions before recycling. Water is not a contaminant in the recycling process of paper, but food, and especially oil, are. When newspapers are recycled, they are mixed with water and turned into a slurry and as everyone knows, water and oil don't mix. Incidentally, the plastic sleeve your newspaper sometimes comes in is now recyclable in bins at both Kroger's and Walmart.

Dear Recycle Lady,

I have recently replaced my old microwave oven. Can my old one be recycled? A Recycler

Dear Recycler,

Any devices, including microwave ovens, that plug in and require the use of electricity can, and should be, recycled. Broken electronics are classified as electronic waste and can harm the environment if placed in the trash. You will need to take your microwave to the Recycle Center as curbside pickup won't pick it up. If the microwave stills works consider donating it, perhaps to organizations like Goodwill that take donations for resale.

Dear Recycle Lady,

The other day, someone told me that I could take my recyclable items to the landfill. Is this correct? A Frankford

Reader

Dear Frankford Reader,

Yes, they are correct. The landfill essentially takes any kind of recyclables that are accepted at the Recycling Center in Ronceverte. Bins like the ones at the Center are not there yet, however, the staff will be happy to show you where to put your items. The more recycling we do, the better off our environment is. Converting raw materials into useful forms requires energy. However, as recycling becomes more popular, manufacturers are able to use less energy. For example, in the aluminum industry, recycling has helped to bring a 40 percent reduction in the carbon footprint over the period from 1995 to 2014, according to The Aluminum Association.

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.