

Dear Recycle Lady



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When grocery shopping, is it better to use paper bags or plastic bags? Prefer Paper

Dear Prefer Paper,

Good question. Paper bags will decompose in about one month. Plastic bags do not decompose for hundreds of years. However, paper bags have their own set of problems for the environment. In 1999, ten billion paper grocery bags were used in the U.S. To produce that many bags required a lot of water, a lot of trees and a lot of chemicals. A better choice would be to carry your own reusable bags whenever you go shopping.

Dear Recycle Lady,

I have several hardback and paperback books that are too good to throw away. Will the Recycling Center take them? Love to Read

Dear Love to Read,

Yes, the Recycling Center will take them during operating hours, which are Monday – Friday 8:45 - 4:45. Have you considered taking them to your local library? Most libraries in the area accept used books for their annual book sales. Not only would you pass your books on, but you might find some new books to read. Plus, the libraries would have additional funds for their new books and equipment. Another place you could take books is to local laundromats. Their patrons often enjoy reading a book while washing and drying their laundry. Mark them Free Books so patrons know they can take the books home with them. Doctors' offices or nursing homes are another alternative. Current magazines are also appreciated.

Dear Recycle Lady,

I recycle large cardboard boxes, but what about smaller boxes? Can they be put in with larger boxes? Do they need to be flattened before they can be recycled? To Flatten, Or Not To Flatten

Dear To Flatten Or Not To Flatten,

Yes, cardboard boxes of all sizes can definitely be recycled. They can be recycled flattened or not; they are acceptable either way. The Recycling Center in Ronceverte receives payment for cardboard, so all boxes are appreciated. Smaller boxes, such as toothpaste, cosmetics, and cereal boxes, as well as toilet paper or paper towel rolls and Fed-X or UPS envelopes, can all be recycled with cardboard. They can be placed, flattened or not, inside larger boxes to save space. Look at what goes in your trash. You will be surprised at how much can be recycled once you begin really looking at it.

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.