

Dear Recycle Lady



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Dear Recycle Lady,

I had never considered putting paper towels into my compost pile until you mentioned it in one of your recent columns. What about used paper towels? Can they be put in the compost? Cleaning Lady

Dear Cleaning Lady,

Yes, used paper towels, and paper napkins, can be put in your compost pile, with a few exceptions. Paper towels or napkins that are oily or greasy cannot be composted. Throw them in the trash. If you are using strong cleaning products with your paper towels, throw them in the trash, also. You don't know how the chemicals will affect your macro and microorganism friends hanging out in your bin. Paper towels with dirt, water, or plant-based food are perfectly acceptable in your compost bin. They are considered a brown or carbon rich material and [can substitute for leaves](#) if you are running low.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Our gas grill has seen its last summer. Can it be recycled? If not, can it be sent to the landfill? Griller

Dear Griller,

Yes, there are metal components in your gas grill that can be recycled. Take the grill to the Recycling Center and follow the sign for recycling aluminum cans. There will be someone there to assist you.

Dear Recycle Lady,

How is paper recycled into a new paper? Interested Reader

Dear Interested Reader,

Kroger's article "Recycle This" had the following short explanation of how paper is recycled. According to the article, recyclable paper is first shredded by pulpers, then added to a mixture of paper, water and chemicals that is heated until the pieces of paper break down into fibers. This mixture is then pressed, cleaned and heated to form rolls used to make new products. The website, earth911.com/living-well-being/events-entertainment/recycle-your-own-paper, has directions for making paper. This could be a fun project for kids on a cold rainy day.

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.