

# Blue Bag Recycling & Recyclable Material

**The golden rule of blue bag recycling:** all recyclables must be clean and dry and contained in a blue recycle bag. The materials in the table below are accepted in blue recycle bags for proper and safe disposal.

Due to changes in the global recycling market, the Town of Millet has made some small changes to its recycling program to meet new industry standards. For more information, please call GFL directly at (780) 444-8805

## Top Three Changes



Please place these items in your waste cart. **Do not place it in your blue bag.**

1. Soft and single use plastic products including caps and lids under 2" (e.g. plastic utensils, coffee cup lids, straws, single yogurt containers)
2. Plastic coated paper products (e.g. ice cream cartons, coffee cups, tetra soup broth containers)
3. Mixed material products – cardboard and plastic or cardboard and foil containers, flexible aluminum containers and foil. (e.g. frozen juice containers, cookie dough containers)

Shredder paper should be directed to the green organics cart. Please place in a 100% compostable bag, a paper bag or inside of a cardboard box to prevent blowing when collected.

## Items Accepted in Blue Bag

- Rigid plastic containers (e.g. margarine tubs, laundry and soap bottles)
- Tin cans and lids (e.g. soup or canned vegetables)
- Paper products (e.g. newspaper, flyer cards, envelopes, magazines, tissue paper)
- Flattened cardboard (e.g. Amazon boxes, shoe boxes, egg cartons)  
*Cardboard must be smaller than 2 x 3 ft. For curbside collection. Please cut up larger boxes.*
- Non-glass Beverage Containers (e.g. pop cans, milk cartons, tetra drink containers)  
*\*\*Beverage containers are refundable at the bottle depot.*



## Preparing Your Recyclables

- Place loose material in the blue bag.
- Break down all boxes so they are flat.
- Cut up larger boxes. The maximum size of cardboard pieces which will be picked up is 2' x 3'.
- Rinse all plastic and tin materials.
- Fold tin can lids inside the can if the lid is still attached, or place detached lids inside the can.
- Never recycle a loose, sharp lid because of the safety risk to sorting staff.
- Rinse metal lids from glass jars.
- Remove hard covers from books.
- The maximum allowable weight of a blue bag out for collection is 26kg.

## Curbside Recycling Program FAQ

### How do I know if a paper item is plastic coated?

- Paper containers that are coated with plastic are typically used in the food and drink packaging industry to ensure leaking of products does not occur. For example, paper coffee cups, cardboard ice cream cartons, fountain pop cups, and Tetra pack food containers (e.g. soup broth) are commonly lined with plastic. These items are **not accepted in the blue bag** and should be placed in your **waste cart**.



**QUESTION:** Are paper and cardboard products with glossy finishes accepted in the blue bag?

**ANSWER: Yes!** Glossy items such as magazines, cracker boxes, paper gift bags (remove the string handle), shoe boxes, or cereal boxes can be placed in the blue bag. *Please remember to remove any non-paper inserts or additional packaging before placing it in your blue bag.*

**QUESTION:** What is a clamshell and is it recyclable?

**ANSWER:** Clamshell is a container made from *soft, flexible plastic*, making it **not recyclable** in our local program. Clamshells are often utilized as take out containers and are commonly used to package berries, bakery goods, and deli salads and sandwiches. These items are **not accepted in the blue bag** and should be placed in your **waste cart**.



**QUESTION:** What are examples of mixed material products and are they recyclable?

**ANSWER:** Products that are made from cardboard or paper and lined with aluminum or plastic are **not accepted in the blue bag** and should be placed in your waste cart. Examples include cardboard spiral containers that are used for frozen juice, cookie dough, chips, and cleaning products. Clean metal lids from these products are accepted in the blue bag for recycling.

**QUESTION:** Why can I recycle a soup can or dog food tin, but not a pie plate or aluminum foil?

**ANSWER:** **Soft, flexible aluminum and tin products** such as aluminum/tin foil, pie plates and take out containers are **considered single use products** and are typically made up of mixed materials, or they are too dirty after use to recycle. **Please place them in your waste cart.**

**Rigid aluminum and tin items** such as soup cans, cat or dog food cans or coffee tins **are still recyclable**, providing they are rinsed and **clean**. Please place metal lids inside the cans to prevent injuries. Labels on cans are accepted in the blue bag.



**QUESTION:** What if a plastic item has a recycling symbol?

**ANSWER:** *Due to ongoing and evolving changes in the global recycling market, local recycling programs do not collect the same materials.* Material may not necessarily have a market to be recycled in our local program.

**Golden Rule:** In the Town of Millet, soft and flexible plastics such as plastic bags, clamshell containers, individual yogurt containers, and plastic coffee lids should be placed in the waste cart. Clean, rigid plastics such as condiment containers and laundry soap containers can continue to be recycled in your blue bag.

**QUESTION:** What do the different numbers inside the recycling symbol represent?

**ANSWER:** The triangle recycling symbol with a number inside ranging from 1 to 7 is called a Resin Identification Code and represents the different types of plastics present in the material. **Generally, Number 1's and 2's can be recycled but the code is not always a suitable indicator, as recycling rules vary in different regions.** The presence of a triangle recycling symbol, or a code on a plastic **does not necessarily mean it is recyclable.**



PETE

polyethylene terephthalate

soft drink bottles, mineral water, fruit juice container, cooking oil



HDPE

high-density polyethylene

milk jugs, cleaning agents, laundry detergents, bleaching agents, shampoo bottles, washing and shower soaps



PVC

polyvinyl chloride

trays for sweets, fruit, plastic packing (bubble foil) and food foils to wrap the foodstuff



LDPE

low-density polyethylene

crushed bottles, shopping bags, highly-resistant sacks and most of the wrappings



PP

polypropylene

furniture, consumers, luggage, toys as well as bumpers, lining and external borders of the cars



PS

polystyrene

toys, hard packing, refrigerator trays, cosmetic bags, costume jewellery, CD cases, vending cups



OTHER

other plastics, including acrylic, polycarbonate, polyactic fibers, nylon, fiberglass