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Recycling Mythbusters

There are lots of recycling myths out there. Check out these mythbusters about each of the most commonly recycled materials!

Myth: The tab is the only part of the can that is recycled.

Fact: The entire can is recyclable! In fact, it is better to keep the tabs on the can to ensure it makes it through the recycling process.

Myth You need to remove all labels before recycling glass containers.

Fact: You do not need to remove the labels on glass bottles before recycling them. The heat generated in the manufacturing process removes the labels.

Myth: You must remove your beverage container cap before recycling.

Fact: Remember: Recyclers want your caps and lids, too. Tip: Because caps can slip off conveyer belts during the recycling process, so when you empty a bottle crush it, cap it, and toss it in the recycling bin.

Myth: Your lunch sandwich bag cannot be recycled with your used plastic bags, wraps and other film.

Fact: Sandwich bags (with or without zippers) can be taken to your local retail establishment for recycling with other plastic film.

Myth: You need to remove the paper label before recycling your steel can.

Fact: The label will burn off in the recycling process. You could remove the label and recycle it with your paper, but it isn't required.



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Myth: You are required to remove staples, labels and stickers from direct mail before recycling.

Fact: You don't need to remove staples, labels or stickers from paper products. This material is removed during the recycling process.

Myth: I can safely dispose of electronic waste in my household trash.

Fact: EPA strongly supports keeping electronics out of the landfills to recover minerals and reduce the environmental impacts of mining and manufacturing additional materials. In addition, many states have banned electronic wastes from landfills.

Myth: Compost piles are smelly, attract pests and rodents and take a long time to be ready for reuse.

Fact: A properly managed compost pile will not attract pests and rodents and can take as short as six to eight weeks to create usable compost.

Myth: It is important to bag your grass clippings and dispose of them in a compost pile when mowing your lawn.

Fact: An alternative to bagging your grass clippings is to mow your lawn so that the grass clippings are never more than two or three inches tall so you can leave the grass clippings where they fall to decompose.

Myth: Once the useful life of an automobile is over, it is usually left in a junkyard.

Fact: The automobile is the most recycled consumer product in the world. Nearly all cars around the world are recovered for recycling.



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Myth: Since Federal law allows disposal of household hazardous waste in the trash, it is okay to put it there.

Fact: Although Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations set national standards, states often have more stringent regulations. Call your local solid waste agency for instructions on the proper disposal of household hazardous wastes and to learn about drop off programs and upcoming collection days.