



• National River Cleanup®

Why Recycle?

Much of the trash that is removed during river cleanups is recyclable. Some of the most commonly found items are plastic and glass bottles, plastic bags, and aluminum cans. By recycling these items, we are reducing the amount of waste in landfills, saving energy, conserving natural resources, reducing greenhouse gases, and protecting and sustaining the environment.

Paper:

White papers, envelopes, file folders, newspaper, and cardboard

Glass:

All beverage and food containers—soda, wine, beer, olive oil, etc.

Metals:

Aluminum cans, aluminum foil, tin cans, copper, brass, iron

Plastic:

At the bottom of each container there is a number to describe the type of plastic it is made of. Below is a list of common household containers separated by SPI number.

- PET (SPI=1): clear soda bottles and some bottles containing liquor, liquid cleaners, detergents, and antacids
- HDPE (SPI=2): milk, juice, and water jugs, laundry detergent, fabric softener, and lotion
- PVC (SPI=3): salad dressing, mouthwash, and liquor
- LDPE (SPI=4): grocery bags, bread bags, and trash bags
- Polypropylene (SPI=5): yogurt, shampoo, margarine
- Polystyrene (SPI=6): Styrofoam, plastic cutlery, and clear carry out containers
- Other (SPI=7): plastics made up of any combination of the above types





American Rivers
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GRAND JUNCTION COLORADO RIVER CLEANUP | LEE GELATT PHOTOGRAPHY

• Did You Know?

- Glass is 100% recyclable and can be recycled continuously without loss in quality
- Every ton of glass recycled saves 1330 pounds of sand, 433 pounds of soda, 433 pounds of limestone, and 151 pounds of feldspar that would be needed to create new glass
- For every million cell phones we recycle, 35 thousand pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold, and 33 pounds of palladium can be recovered
- Recycling 100 aluminum cans could light your bedroom for two whole weeks
- Recycling a stack of newspaper just three feet high saves one tree
- Recycling one ton of plastic bottles saves the equivalent energy usage of a two person household for one year

What to Do with Other Recyclable Items?

Tires: Check with your local tire retailer to see if they accept and recycle used tires or contact your local solid waste management agency. Bridgestone will collect and recycle used tires for free.

Batteries: Car batteries can be returned to almost any store that sells them. Dry cell batteries (9-Volt, D, C, AA, AAA) can be collected at a community collection event or at an in-store recycling bin.

Appliances and Electronics: Manufacturers and retailers offer options to donate or recycle electronics. Visit their store or website to learn about their recycling programs. Best Buy is on retailer that offers free, in-store recycling.

Cigarette waste, snack packaging, old sneakers, water filters, etc.: For non-recyclable or hard to recycle products, companies like Terra Cycle collect and process waste to turn it into new products, such as bags or park benches.



CENTRAL JERSEY STEAM TEAM CLEANUP | BRUCE LITTON

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