

Frequently Asked Questions

1) Do we need to remove the labels from tin cans?

You aren't obliged to do so, but if you take the time, the label will also be recycled. Otherwise, it will be burned off during the melting process (this does not hinder the process in any way).

2) Are plastic bags recyclable?

To begin with, it is important to note that sorting plastic bags is a very difficult task. In spite of all of the sorting stages and processes, this material remains omnipresent. Not only do plastic bags cause mechanical breakdowns, they are also considered a contaminant and can ruin batches of recyclables, especially paper fibres, in the transformation phase.

Some sorting centers accept plastic bags, while others do not. Tricentris will accept plastic bags when an after-market has been established. At that time, it will be important to revise the equipment to prevent costly damage.

3) Do we need to bundle and tie newspapers?

Avoid at all costs! If newspapers are bundled and tied, the package will behave much like a container and end up on the wrong sorting line.

4) Since we can't bundle and tie newspapers, can we put them in a paper bag?

No, for the same reason as stated in question 3. Not to mention that the workers do not have the time to empty out bags.

5) I don't fully understand which plastics are recyclable and which are not.

Two questions to ask yourself when you have a plastic container in your hands:

- 1) Is it a container or a lid? If the answer is yes, it is probably recyclable.
- 2) What number appears in the universal recycling symbol (the Möbius ribbon) on the underside of a container?

Ex.:

Most plastics are recyclable, namely # 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7. Types # 3 and 6 are not.

Plastic is omnipresent in our consumer society. From hangers to toys, an enormous number of objects are made from plastic. The type of plastic is not always imprinted on objects. Also, numerous products are a composition of different types of plastic, and there is simply no time on the sorting line to dismantle these objects.

6) Do bottle caps need to be removed?

Yes, for two reasons:

- 1) Bottle caps are rarely made from the same plastic as the bottle itself, mainly because caps have different performance criteria. Most caps are made from plastics

2, 4 and 5, and containers are usually made from plastics #1 and 2, with a small proportion being made out of plastics # 5 and 7.

2) It is very difficult to put bottles into bales with their caps screwed on tight. Try the following test to see for yourself! Compress a bottle with the lid screwed on. Now, try it without the cap. When the air inside a bottle cannot escape, it is much more difficult to flatten the container.

When bottles are fully compressed, the result is a denser bale of plastic and lower transportation costs.

7) Do we need to remove plastic windows from envelopes?

It always helps! A few plastic windows in a bale of paper fibres are acceptable, as they are removed in the decontamination stage of the paper recycling process.

8) Do we need to remove staples, spirals and binder rings?

You do not have to remove staples, as the recycling facilities are equipped to deal with tiny pieces of metal.

When it comes to a document with a plastic spiral, however, it is important to remove and discard it.

In the binder's case, the rings and the cardboard inside the cover are recyclable, but not the plastic covering itself. In order for it to be recycled, it needs to be disassembled.

9) Are glass windows recyclable?

Not by the municipal recycling service, but some companies do offer that service. Window glass and container glass do not melt at the same temperature. It is therefore impossible to recycle them together.

10) Can bottles and cans that have a deposit go into my recycling bin?

Absolutely! In addition to being able to sell the aluminium and plastic, the sorting center can also recover the value of the refund. Consider it a voluntary contribution to the facility, compensating for other material that has no resale value, such as glass.

11) Are all containers with the recycling symbol (Möbius ribbon) recyclable?

No. A material can only be truly recyclable when it has a buyer. The rule is simple: if there is no market, that means the processes for its transformation do not yet exist. For example, bread bags and styrofoam cups have the recycling symbol on them, but it is nearly impossible to sell them in the recycling marketplace.