

# WHAT DO RECYCLABLES BECOME?

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Putting plastics, cardboard, paper, metal, and glass into the recycling bin is a great way to save materials from the landfill. But, if those materials don't go to the landfill, where do they go? It's important to know what is made from the recyclable materials put in green bins to understand how your trash becomes usable again.

In the City of Buffalo, recyclable items are collected from your home in a single stream green recycling totes provided to each household. Single Stream (versus Dual Stream) allows all the material to be collected together in one tote. The recyclables are collected and taken to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and sorted.

At the MRF, all the mixed recycling is sorted and separated into different types of materials by hand or machine (or both) before being sent to manufacturers who make it into new products. You can see a video of the process at: <https://youtu.be/JyF7QTJVzB4>

Once collected and sorted, recycled materials become valuable commodities in the worldwide market.



**CAN IT BE RECYCLED?**

Call **311** or visit **BuffaloRecycles.org** to learn more.



# WHAT MAKES WHAT?

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## METAL:

### ALUMINUM

Aluminum cans are shredded, cleaned, melted, and mixed with a pure aluminum base, then recast into new aluminum products like airplane parts, building facades, bicycles, and even more cans.

### FERROUS VERSUS NON-FERROUS



Now you know what your empty beverage containers can become.

Graphic credit: recycleeverywhere.ca.



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# WHAT MAKES WHAT?



## PLASTIC:

### PLASTIC BOTTLES

Plastic bottles are recycled into clothing like t-shirts, sweaters, and jackets. They are also used to make carpeting, new plastic containers, plastic lumber, patio furniture, benches, roads, and even new recycling bins.

### BAGS & WRAPS

Plastic bags and wraps are also used to make plastic lumber and patio furniture, but they are also used to make playground equipment and even more bags!

### BOTTLE CAPS

Bottle caps become yarn, brooms, ropes, storage containers, garden rakes, and even car batteries.



Graphic credit: recycleeverywhere.ca.



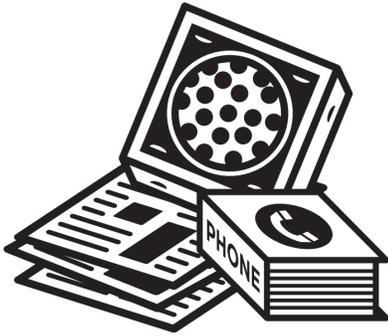
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# WHAT MAKES WHAT?

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## **PAPER:**

### **NEWSPAPERS, MAIL, OFFICE, & SCHOOL PAPERS**

Newspapers are used to make paperboard, puzzles, gift boxes, food boxes, insulation, and certain types of animal bedding. Even toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, and napkins can be from paper products.

### **CEREAL & CRACKER BOXES (THIN CARDBOARD)**

Thin cardboard is usually recycled into egg cartons, gift boxes, and new food packaging.

### **CORRUGATED CARDBOARD**

Cardboard is made into paperboard, paper towel rolls, and sometimes paper backing for roof shingles. It is also turned into paper bags, packaging, and sometimes backing for tablets.



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# WHAT MAKES WHAT?

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## GLASS

Glass can be recycled indefinitely. It can constantly be re-melted to make new glass items. Glass is recycled into new glass containers like jam jars, bottles, and glasses, but pieces of glass are also used to make bricks, pavement, and turf.



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