

Let's Talk Trash:

Recycle vs. Trash Sorting Game Answer Key

Trash

Hanger (plastic, metal, and wood): All hangers go to the landfill. Plastic, metal, or wood hangers are typically made of more than one type of plastic, considered “tanglers” that cause damage to the recycling sorting equipment, or are treated with varnish that cannot be recycled. **Ways to reuse:** Turn old hangers into a fun arts and crafts project, or donate them!

To-Go Coffee Cup: Single serve coffee cups go to the landfill. These cups often have an interior wax lining that makes them unrecyclable. **Ways to reduce:** Bring a reusable mug to the coffee shop!

Wax Lined Juice Box/Milk Carton: The waxy coating on the carton cannot be recycled. This item goes to the landfill.

Potato Chip or Snack Bag: The shiny interior lining in chip or snack bags is often made of aluminum and mixed plastic. Most recycling plants cannot separate the plastic outer layer from the inner layer. These mixed-material bags go to the landfill.

Paper or Plastic Straw: Straws are too small for the recycling sorting process and go to the landfill. **Ways to reduce:** Make the switch and use stainless steel or glass straws.

Styrofoam: Styrofoam cannot break down in a recycling facility and goes to the landfill. **Ways to reuse:** Line the bottom of potted plants with styrofoam to allow water to drain easily.

Plastic Utensils: Plastic utensils are too small for the recycling sorting process and go to the landfill. **Ways to reduce:** Pack a pair of metal or bamboo utensils for on-the-go meals!

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Recycle

Plastic Water Bottle: A clean and empty plastic water bottle is recyclable. It is okay to leave caps and lids securely attached to the bottle. **Ways to reduce:** Use a reusable water bottle or a filtration pitcher in your home.

Newspaper: Newspaper is recyclable. **Ways to reuse:** Consider using newspaper instead of bubble wrap when packing fragile items.

Aluminum Can: A clean and empty aluminum can is recyclable.

Cardboard Box: A clean and empty cardboard box is recyclable. **Important to remember:** Wax or plastic coated cardboard (such as most frozen food boxes) and oil or food-stained cardboard (such as most pizza boxes) are not recyclable and go to the landfill.

Bag of Plastic Bags: Plastic bags and film are recyclable if they are clean, dry, and bagged together. Place all plastic bags and film into a single, larger plastic bag and tie the top of the bag closed. **Ways to reduce:** Bring a reusable tote on the next trip to the grocery store!