



Message to Dedicated Recyclers: Would you like to recycle paper cartons? **NOW YOU CAN!**



The County is conducting a pilot study to test the recycling of paper cartons. We are starting this study on a small scale, to determine the level of effort it will take to sort and recycle the cartons at the County Recycling Center. So, we are slowly putting the word out to recyclers, like you, on how to recycle paper cartons.

You can start recycling cartons now.

Start now and **recycle your “cartons”** by placing them in your recycling bucket, mixed in **with your bottles and cans**.

What is a carton?

Cartons are a type of packaging for food and beverage products you can purchase at the store. They are easy to recognize and are available in two types – shelf-stable and refrigerated.

Shelf-stable cartons (types of products):

- Juice & Juice Boxes
- Milk
- Soy Milk
- Soup and broth
- Wine

You will find these products on the shelves in grocery stores.



Refrigerated (types of products):

- Milk
- Juices like orange juice and lemonade
- Cream, Half & Half
- Egg substitutes

You will find these products in the chilled sections of grocery stores.



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What are cartons made from?

Cartons are mainly made from paper in the form of paperboard, as well as thin layers of aluminum and polyethylene (plastic). Shelf-stable cartons contain on average 74% paper, 22% polyethylene and 4% aluminum. Refrigerated cartons contain about 80% paper and 20% polyethylene.



Wait, you just said cartons are made mainly from paper. Don't I want to put them with other paper recyclables?

Good question. The answer is **NO**. Due to the design of the County's recycling center, the only way we can sort out the cartons for recycling, is to have them mixed with bottles and cans, not with paper and cardboard.

Is there a waxy coating on cartons?

Isn't that why they are difficult to recycle?

The wax coated cartons most people remember have actually become a thing of the past. What you may see as wax on a carton is actually a thin layer of polyethylene (plastic). Cartons are not difficult to recycle as long as the right systems are in place to do so.

Are cartons recyclable?

Yes! Cartons are a valuable recyclable material used to make new products.

How do I recycle cartons?

Simply place the cartons in your recycling bucket, along with your bottles and cans. Do **NOT** put the cartons in with your paper and cardboard.

Questions? Call:

Burlington County Office of Recycling 499-1001

or email:

recycle@co.burlington.nj.us

Do I need to remove the cap or straw when recycling my cartons?

Yes, please remove caps and straws.

Do I need to rinse my cartons?

There are no requirements to rinse your cartons. As long as the carton is empty, it is okay to place in your recycling bucket. However, you may want to rinse your cartons to ensure the cartons are empty and to alleviate any potential odor problems

What happens to cartons after they are sorted?

The cartons will be baled and shipped to paper mills. At the mills, the cartons are mixed with water in a gigantic blender to extract all the paper fiber, which is used to make tissues, napkins, and other similar paper products.