

# What can you recycle?

By U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), adapted by Newsela staff on 04.16.20

Word Count **310**

Level **500L**



Different materials have different rules for recycling. Nick Dolding/Science Source

Recycling is a great thing to do. But it should be done correctly. Here is how to do it.

## **Paper**

A lot of waste comes from paper. Yet a lot is recycled too. In 2017, the Americans recycled nearly two-thirds of their waste paper. It is used to make new paper products. This saves trees.

Most communities accept paper and paper products. Be sure to check online first. That will tell you what paper to recycle.

## **Gift Wrap And Gift Bags**

A lot of gift wrap and gift bags have a shiny coating. They cannot be recycled.

Try gift wrap that can be recycled. Some is made from recycled material.

You also can use pretty boxes. They do not need wrapping. They can be used again. Gift bags and tissue paper can also be used over and over.

## **Batteries**

Batteries should not be thrown into the trash. Instead, drop them off at stores that collect them. Or attend a community collection event.

Many batteries that are used in portable electronic equipment can be recycled. They include: 9-volt, D, C, AA, and AAA batteries. There are other types too.

## **Plastics**

In 2017 Americans made a lot of plastic trash. It was about 35 million tons. Yet only about 3 million tons were recycled that year.

Most communities accept plastic to recycle. The bottom of plastic containers have numbers inside a triangle. They represent a type of plastic. Your community may or may not take it.

## **Glass**

Glass bottles and jars can be recycled many times. Americans created about 11.4 million tons of glass waste. This happened was in 2017. About one-fourth of this amount was recycled that year.

Most community recycling programs accept glass. Check your local recycling program. They will tell you if need to separate glass types or if it can be mixed together.

## Quiz

- 1 Which sentence from the section "Paper" explains WHY recycling is a good thing to do?
- (A) A lot of waste comes from paper.
  - (B) Yet a lot is recycled too.
  - (C) This saves trees.
  - (D) That will tell you what paper to recycle.
- 2 What is a reason WHY some gift wrap cannot be recycled?
- (A) It has a shiny coating.
  - (B) It has colorful patterns.
  - (C) It can be used for art projects.
  - (D) It can be used more than once.
- 3 Which answer choice is a section title?
- (A) Gift Wrap And Gift Bags
  - (B) Recycling is Great
  - (C) Local Recycling Program
  - (D) What can you Recycle?
- 4 What can a reader learn by looking at the article's section titles?
- (A) where to recycle waste
  - (B) what items can be recycled
  - (C) how to find recycled paper
  - (D) when to recycle different items