

Regular Weekly Recycle

Menno Haven collects recyclables on a weekly basis. Residents need to put these materials in the recycle container provided by Menno Haven, and place the container out for collection on Tuesday evening or before 7:30 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Menno Haven recycled materials:

Glass bottles (food and drink)

Metal cans (also called tin cans or bi-metal cans)

Aluminum foil and aluminum pans (cleaned)

Aluminum drink cans (in a plastic bag)*

Newspaper (bundled – either tied with twine or in a paper or plastic bag)**

Plastics (rinse out, and remove and discard the cap)

Examples: water, soda, juice containers, plus others with a 1 or 2 in the recycle triangle on the bottom of the container (see below)

Corrugated cardboard (flatten and remove all Styrofoam and plastic wrapping material)

Styrofoam packing material Place in a clear plastic bag with a twisty-tie

Paper and cardboard:

Magazines

Phone books

Junk mail

Paperback books

Envelopes and folders

Gift wrapping and gift tissue paper

Shredded paper (put in a clear plastic bag)

Paperboard containers (cereal, tissue, frozen food, shoe boxes, etc.)

Catalogs

Office paper

Office paper (white or colored)

Cardboard egg cartons

Paper towel and toilet paper rolls

DO NOT INCLUDE IN RECYCLE (put in regular the trash)

Paper Towels

Coffee Cups

Hard Cover Books

Tissue paper

Paperboard (with waxy coating) milk and juice containers,

Styrofoam cups, take-out containers, and egg cartons (i.e., any Styrofoam that has had food in it)

Food containers that have come in contact with food:

Ice cream containers, candy wrappers, pizza box bottoms, soiled paper plates, used coffee cups

*Menno Haven keeps the aluminum cans and, along with scrap metals, give the cans to OSI (Occupational Services Inc.) that aids in-need people with a job and some income from the sale of the metals.

**Glossy inserts may be included with the newspaper or may be included in the recycle. The newspapers are given to the Boy Scouts who sell them to farmers for bedding. The glossy inserts are not as absorbent as the regular newsprint, so they are not useful for bedding.

The Ronald McDonald House in Hershey raises funds by collecting “Anything [paper] that is glossy - magazines, catalogs, and annual reports, just as long as the pages are slick and glossy.” Unfortunately, the nearest collection location is the McDonalds in Carlisle at the I-81 Walnut Bottom Road exit (Exit 45). The paper goes into a large green dumpster in the rear of the parking lot. If you make regular trips to Carlisle or the Harrisburg area, you can recycle glossy material and contribute to a worthy cause. At this time the Green Team has no plans to offer any service to transport this paper, but someone who does travel that way regularly may be able to collect paper from neighbors and recycle it at McDonalds.

Plastics that are recycled (rinse out and discard cap):



Water bottles



Soda bottles



Detergent containers



Milk jugs



Juice containers



Any other plastics that have a “1” or “2” symbol

The following description of plastic comes from the EcoVillageGreen website:
<http://ecovillagegreen.com/903>

Plastic #1: This is polyethylene terephthalate, also known as PETE or PET. Most disposable soda and water bottles are made of #1 plastic, and it’s usually clear. This plastic is considered generally safe. However, it is known to have a porous surface that allows bacteria and flavor to accumulate, so it is best not to keep reusing these bottles as makeshift containers. This plastic is picked up by most curbside recycling programs.

Plastic #2: This is high density polyethylene, or HDPE. Most milk jugs, detergent bottles, juice bottles, butter tubs, and toiletries bottles are made of this. It is usually opaque. This plastic is considered safe and has low risk of leaching. It is also picked up by most recycling programs.

Plastic #3: This is polyvinyl chloride, or PVC. It is used to make food wrap, bottles for cooking oil, and plumbing pipes. PVC is a tough plastic but it is not considered safe to cook food near it. There are phthalates in this material—softening chemicals that interfere with hormonal development. You should minimize use of #3 plastic around food as much as possible. Never cook using food wrap, especially in a microwave oven. If the wrap is listed as microwave-safe then I would still not let it touch the food while using it in the microwave. #3 plastic is rarely accepted by recycling programs.

Plastic #4: This is low density polyethylene (LDPE). It is used to make grocery bags, some food wraps, squeezable bottles, and bread bags. This plastic is considered safe, but is unfortunately not often accepted by curbside recycling programs.

Plastic #5: this is polypropylene. Yogurt cups and similar wide-necked containers are often made from it, as well as water bottles with a cloudy finish. You'll also find it in medicine bottles, ketchup and syrup bottles, and straws. This plastic is also considered safe, and is increasingly being accepted by curbside recycling programs.

Plastic #6: this is polystyrene, or Styrofoam, from which disposable containers and packaging are made. You'll also find it in disposable plates and cups. Evidence is increasingly suggesting that this type of plastic leaches potentially toxic chemicals, especially when heated. I suggest avoiding the use of #6 plastic as much as possible. It is difficult to recycle and most recycling programs won't accept it.

Plastic #7: This number basically means "everything else." It's a mixed bag, composed of plastics which were invented after 1987. Polycarbonate falls into this category, including the dreaded BPA. So do modern plastics used in anything from iPods to computer cases. It also includes some baby bottles and food storage containers which resist staining. Use of #7 plastic is at your own risk, since you don't know what could be in it. You should dispose of any food or drink related product, especially for children, that is known to contain BPA. I personally also view any other food or drink container made from #7 plastic with a good deal of suspicion. It is difficult to recycle #7 plastic and most curbside recycling programs won't accept it.

To summarize, plastics #2, #4 and #5 are generally considered safe. Plastic #1 is safe too but should not be re-used due to the risk of growing bacteria. Any other plastic should be used with extreme caution, especially around food or drink. The risk is even greater when heating food. For microwaving in particular, remember that microwave safe containers aren't necessarily healthy. They just won't melt. In general, it's better to avoid microwaving plastic entirely and just use glass.

