

# Carton Recycling: Frequently Asked Questions



## Which Cartons Can I Recycle?

Recyclable Cartons include those found on the shelves and in the refrigerated sections of the grocery store. The following types of products are typically packaged in recyclable cartons:

- Juice
- Milk
- Soy milk
- Soup and broth
- Wine
- Cream
- Egg substitutes
- Children's juice boxes
- Tofu



## How Should I Prepare My Cartons For Recycling?

Please rinse the carton and remove any straws or plastic caps prior to recycling. There is no need to cut out any plastic spout incorporated into the carton. Please do not flatten cartons – place them in the recycling bin in their original shape.

## Where Can I Recycle My Cartons?

Cartons can be recycled in curbside single-stream recycling bins in Fort Collins as well as in the commingled container bins at the City of Fort Collins' Recycling Drop-Off Center at 1702 Riverside Ave. (behind Rivendell School). The drop-off center at the Larimer County Landfill is accepting cartons as well.

## What Happens to Cartons After They Are Collected? How are they Recycled?

After cartons are collected, they are taken to a materials recovery facility to be sorted and baled. The bales of recycled cartons are then shipped to paper mills, where cartons are mixed with water in a gigantic blender to extract all the paper fiber from the plastic and aluminum. The paper fiber is then ready to be used in making new products, such as recycled paper products and even building materials.

The aluminum/plastic combination left over from the shelf-stable cartons and the plastic left over from refrigerated cartons can be used in different ways. They're either sold to plastic manufacturers for use in plastic lumber, used to generate energy, or landfilled.

## What Are Cartons Made From?

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

## What Materials Are Not Accepted?

Ice cream containers and paper cups are not made of the same materials as cartons and should not be included in the recycle bin.

Portions of this text provided by the Carton Council, [www.recyclecartons.com](http://www.recyclecartons.com)