

The Recycling Process Starts With You

YOU are the first and most important step in the success of your local recycling program. What you do and don't bring to recycling, and how you prepare items for recycling can greatly improve efficiency, reduce costs, and contribute to the health and safety of those who process your recyclables.

First, you should make sure items are free of contaminants by emptying and rinsing items, and then, when you bring them for recycling, remove items from bags and place them in designated spaces.

Here are some Do's and Don'ts for Recycling:

Do empty, rinse, and crush containers, water and milk bottles, etc.



This saves space and improves ease of handling. This also reduces the number of trips you make to recycling. Wearing shoes and holding onto something when stomping on milk jugs is a good habit to get into. Do not break glass bottles or jars.

Do break down and flatten cardboard boxes



When not broken down, cardboard boxes waste valuable space and require a great deal of work to prepare for shipment. Cutting the tape and folding the box is the most common approach. Use caution when using a knife to cut tape and boxes.

Do remove greasy bottoms from pizza boxes



Fiber in your food is good, but food on fiber to be recycled is not. We cannot accept waxed or greasy cardboard, or food contaminated cardboard.

Do's and Don'ts continued



Don't recycle bottle caps unless they are over 3 inches in diameter. Caps must be removed before baling bottles to allow air to escape. Our sorting team removes hundreds of them a day. They are impossible to bale and otherwise hard to handle. When you take the cap off the bottle to rinse it, just leave it off.



Don't drop off TVs, other electronics, or household hazardous waste at drop sites. In addition to being extremely unsafe, they are very expensive to handle, including labor costs, packaging for shipping, and shipping itself. Special processing is required to handle these items safely.



*Please note that REINA RECYCLING **does** recycle electronics, as well as batteries, and their contact information is as follows: www.reina-recycling.org and <https://www.facebook.com/reina.recycling.sault>, or phone 906-748-7614.*

Leaving TVs, electronics, and household hazardous waste at any drop sites is unsafe and constitutes littering. It will be prosecuted.



Don't put hypodermic needles or other sharps in your recycling. Our gloves are good, but no match for needles. Please follow the manufacturer's instructions when disposing of needles and other sharps. You can ask your pharmacist, or local hospital, for a SHARPS container, or use a reasonable alternative container, and take it to the hospital laboratory for disposal.

Visit our website or Facebook page for additional information

Website: www.northerntransitions.org/recycling.html

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NorthernTransitionsinc>

Northern Transitions, Inc.
1401 W. Easterday Ave.
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783
Main Office Phone: (906) 635-5681
Recycling Phone: (906)632-0525