

Recycling Lowdown



Paper

Yes: Junk mail, magazines and catalogs, office paper and envelopes, books, receipts, paper bags, newspaper, cardboard boxes, paper egg cartons.

No: Paper plates, cups, towels, napkins, ammonia-processed blueprints, carbon paper, diapers, facial tissue, pads, photographs, stickers, waxed paper or waxed containers, milk, ice cream, frozen juice containers or beverage boxes.

Tips: Break down boxes, remove Styrofoam packaging materials.



Plastic

Yes: All plastic (except for bags and Styrofoam), clean food containers, plastic cups, lids, utensils, household items, nursery flats and pots, irrigation hose, pipes, buckets, toys.

No: Styrofoam, Styrofoam peanuts, bubble wrap, bags, tarps, shower curtains, VHS tapes, CDs, partly plastic items, anything that is battery-operated or has an electrical cord.

Tips: Empty and rinse food containers.



Metal

Yes: Steel or stainless steel, aluminum and aluminum foil, copper, brass, lead, pots and pans, utensils, small car and bike parts, pipes, tools. Empty cans of paint, aluminum, tin, steel, aerosol.

No: Full or partially full containers, oil filters, fuel or gas tanks, heavy items or vehicle parts

Tips: Metal can be dirty; paint, rust and nonmetal parts are OK.



Glass

Yes: Bottles and jars only, all colors acceptable.

No: Window glass, mirrors, drinking glasses, dishes, Pyrex, light bulbs or fluorescent bulbs.

Tips: Rinsing is preferable; labels and lids are OK.

Recycling Resources

For recycling in Santa Barbara County: lessismore.org

City of Santa Barbara food scraps collection program: santabarbaraca.gov/Recycling-Trash

For a great video about plastic in our oceans, watch: savesfbay.org/bayvsbag

Story and photos of the great Pacific garbage patch: news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/09/photogalleries/pacific-garbage-patch-pictures

In the News

As we go to press California's Assembly Bill 1998, banning single use plastic bags, awaits Senate approval. If signed into law, California would be the first state to impose a statewide ban on plastic bags.