

Preserving the environment through integrated recovery and disposal.

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**PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Recycling Myths: TRUE OR FALSE**

By choosing to recycle, the residents and businesses of Oneida and Herkimer Counties continue to give trash a new life. The two-County region currently recycles over 50% of the solid waste generated in the two Counties. Recycling not only protects the environment by conserving energy and natural resources, but benefits our economy and preserves space in our region's landfill.

Still, many residents are left with questions about what is accepted for recycling through the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority's **RecycleOne – One and Done** - program.

**ONE BIN – NO BAGS**

**Here's How It Works:**

1. All recyclable items – paper, plastic, metal and glass – need to be mixed together loosely in one container.
2. Recyclables must be placed in your designated recycling bin or a durable plastic or metal lidded container of your choice, under 35 gallons and not more than 50 pounds.
3. Do not place recyclables in plastic bags for collection. No string, trash or green waste allowed.

**Always recycle the following items:**

- **PAPER** – Flattened cardboard, paper, newspaper, paperboard, magazines (Do not bundle or tie.)
- **PLASTIC** – Bottles, cups and containers
- **METAL** - Food & beverage cans (tin, aluminum, steel food and beverage cans)
- **GLASS** – Food & beverage bottles and jars

**DO NOT include these items in your recycling bin:**

- **NO Plastic Bags or Wrap** (grocery store bags, animal feed or pellet bags, plastic wrap)
- **NO Styrofoam** (foam cups, packaging foam)
- **NO Needles** (needles, syringes and lancets should be placed in a puncture-proof container with a lid, labeled as "sharps" and placed in the garbage. Find sharp disposal programs by visiting [www.ohswa.org](http://www.ohswa.org).)

**Myth: The recycling arrows on a container mean it is recyclable.**

**FALSE.** *The numbers found on plastic items are identification codes for the type of plastic used to make them. The numbers **do not** tell you whether the item can be recycled. You can recycle all plastic bottles, cups and containers (with and without number codes) excluding Styrofoam, motor oil bottles and prescription medicine bottles. If the plastic item is not a **bottle, cup or container**, it does **NOT** belong in your recycling bin, regardless of the recycling symbol.*

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**Myth: It doesn't matter if something belongs in the recycling bin, the hauler will sort everything anyway.**

**FALSE.** When non-recyclables are sent to the Recycling Center, each one must be removed by hand or mechanically sorted, or they end up contaminating high-value recyclables. Items that do not belong in recyclables can also interfere with the Recycling Center's sorting equipment.

PLASTIC ITEMS	RECYCLABLE?
Plastic bottle caps/lids	<b>YES.</b> Once bottles/containers are empty, lids should be placed back on bottles/containers.
Plastic bags	<b>NO.</b> Do not place plastic bags or bagged recyclables in your recycling bin. (Drop-off plastic bags to local grocery stores for proper recycling.)
Plastic animal feed or pellet bags	<b>NO.</b> These bags should be placed in your regular garbage, regardless of the recycling arrows on the bags.
Plastic eatery: utensils, plates	<b>NO.</b> Plastic utensils and plates should be placed in your regular garbage.
Chip bags/snack wrappers	<b>NO.</b> Place these items in your regular garbage.
PAPER ITEMS	RECYCLABLE?
Milk/Juice Cartons	<b>YES.</b> Juice boxes (no pouches), milk and juice cartons are recyclable.
Frozen Food Boxes	<b>NO.</b> If your cardboard comes from the freezer (i.e. TV dinner box, frozen waffle box), then it should be placed in the garbage.
Napkins Paper Towels Tissues	<b>NO.</b> Napkins, paper towels and tissue should be placed in the garbage. However, the cardboard tube in the middle of the roll of paper towels or toilet paper can be recycled.
Paper Cups and Plates	<b>NO.</b> Paper cups and plates have a plastic or waxed coating that does not break down during the recycling process.
Shredded Paper	<b>YES.</b> Shredded paper is the only exception to the "No Bag" rule. Shredded paper should be placed in a clear bag and set out with your recyclables.
METAL & GLASS ITEMS	RECYCLABLE?
Aerosol Cans	<b>YES.</b> Empty aerosol cans should be placed in your recycling container.
Scrap Metal	<b>NO.</b> Scrap metal such as pots and pans, car parts, metal coat hangers and other large metals should not be placed in your recycling container.
Aluminum Foil	<b>YES.</b> Clean aluminum foil should be placed in your recycling container.
Broken Glass	<b>NO.</b> Broken glass should be wrapped and placed in your garbage for disposal.

For more information on recycling, waste disposal and special programs in Oneida and Herkimer Counties, please visit [www.ohswa.org](http://www.ohswa.org). For further questions or recycling tips, please contact Authority Recycling Coordinator Jamie Tuttle at 733-1224 ext. 2300.

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