

THE TRUTH ABOUT CARTON RECYCLING

MYTHS VS REALITY

MYTH: A carton is not recyclable if a recycling logo is not on the packaging.

REALITY: Whether or not you see an actual recycling symbol on a carton you buy, they ARE recyclable. The aseptic and gable top cartons found in grocery stores today are all recyclable. To see if you can recycle cartons in your community, visit www.RecycleCartons.com and a zip-code locator will help you find out.

MYTH: Cartons should be flattened and if it has a cap, the cap needs to be removed.

REALITY: Cartons should be placed into the recycling container in their original form – not flattened and the caps can be left on. This is the best way to ensure they are recycled to obtain their truest value.

MYTH: Cartons have a wax coating that prevents them from being recycled.

REALITY: Food and beverage cartons do not contain any wax. Cartons are made mainly from paper in the form of paperboard. What you may think of as “wax” on a carton is actually a thin layer of polyethylene (plastic).

MYTH: Even if I put a carton in the recycling container, it doesn't necessarily mean it will be recycled.

REALITY: More than half of American households can recycle cartons. To check to see if they are accepted in your community, visit RecycleCartons.com and type in your zip code.

MYTH: The material that comes from cartons when they are recycled is not valuable. They aren't really turned into anything else.

REALITY: Cartons are a valuable source of material, representing some of the cleanest and best long fiber currently in the residential recycling stream. Paper mills use this fiber to make paper products such as tissue, paper towel, etc. In addition, some companies use the material from cartons to produce sustainable building materials such as wall board, sheathing, ceiling tiles and backer board.



Carton Council

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