

Submitted by Alexis Baker, Environmental Programs Coordinator
Recycling 101 Review

Many people reading my monthly column may still have questions about how to properly recycle in Henderson County. In this article, I will attempt to review some of the most common concerns and questions about recycling.

The first question I most often receive is in regards to what types of plastics are acceptable in Henderson County. The most basic way to remember which plastics to recycle is by shape. It should be a bottle or jug with a neck smaller than the base. Plastic jars are also accepted. These types of plastics have screw top lids.

Additionally, all types of metal cans, glass bottles, and food containers may also be recycled. When recycling at the Henderson County Recycling Convenience Center, plastic containers, metal cans, and glass bottles may be put in the bin labeled as “Bottles, Cans, Jars, and Jugs” or “Containers”.

Second, questions often arise about paper recycling. At the Henderson County Recycling Convenience Center, paper is separated into cardboard and mixed paper. Cardboard is, for the most part, the boxes used for packing and moving. Cereal boxes and similar materials are considered chipboard and should be placed in the mixed paper bin.

Mixed paper is made up of many types of paper, for example, junk mail, newspaper, cereal boxes, and magazines. If it is paper and not cardboard, then it can be placed into the mixed paper bin. However, there are a few things that cannot be placed in this bin. The items that should not be placed in the mixed paper container include containers with a waxy coating such as frozen food packages and paper products contaminated with food. Cardboard pizza boxes with food contamination should also not be mixed in with clean cardboard. A rule of thumb with pizza boxes is to put wax paper or foil on the bottom to prevent grease contamination. Clean pizza boxes are acceptable to mix in with the other cardboard.

Finally, we have received several calls about electronics. As many of you may know, as of July 1st, televisions, computers, monitors, printers, scanners, and computer peripherals such as keyboards and mice are banned from disposal in landfills. The great news is that these items are recycled every day at the Henderson County Recycling Convenience Center for free. We accept most types of electronics such as office equipment, media and entertainment equipment, and microwaves. Please remember that no other types of kitchen electronics are acceptable.

Other materials that are recycled at the Henderson County Recycling Convenience Center include cooking oil, motor oil, antifreeze, and batteries. Battery recycling is located under the overhang behind the oil collection. Batteries should be separated into the drums labeled “rechargeable” and “non-rechargeable”.

We welcome any questions regarding recycling or solid waste. Please feel free to contact us at 694-6524 for recycling information or 697-4505 for solid waste information.

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