



## Guide to Recycling in Ogden Dunes

*Please note that the answers below reflect what is currently contracted with Able Disposal. The market for recycled products changes constantly, so periodically check for updates.*

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## How does recycling benefit me?

*Recycling is definitely worth the effort, and even the cost, when you add up the amount of energy and natural resources that are saved. In addition, there are many environmental benefits to recycling.*

*By some accounts, the energy saved by recycling one aluminum can equals the amount of energy it takes to run a TV set for three hours. This is the energy equivalent of 0.5 gallon (1.9 liters) of gasoline.*

*It takes nearly 9,000 pounds of bauxite (aluminum ore) and 1,020 pounds of petroleum coke (fuel) to manufacture one ton of aluminum.*



*Bauxite is mined as far away as Australia! Using recycled aluminum to produce aluminum reduces raw material requirements by 95 percent and energy requirements by 90 percent)*

*— enough electricity to light a city the size of Pittsburgh for six years. It also extends the life of the landfill where our trash is sent.*

*It's estimated that aluminum beverage containers can be recycled into new cans and put back onto store shelves within 60 days!*

*Recycling can mean economic savings for businesses, communities and individual consumers. Recycling can also protect and expand manufacturing jobs in the United States and can even increase U.S. global competitiveness.*

*From a consumer standpoint, recycling also teaches you the benefits of buying*

*in bulk, with less packaging, which will help your own bottom line. When you become an avid recycler, you learn that re-usable or bulk items are much more cost effective and create less waste than single-serve items.*

*The environmental benefits of recycling are profound.*

*Recycling reduces the need for landfilling and incineration.*

*Recycling prevents pollution caused by the manufacturing of products from virgin materials.*

*Furthermore, recycling decreases emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change; and conserves natural resources such as timber, water and minerals.*



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## How much of our waste is recycled and how does that compare nationwide?

*Able Disposal provides the Town of the Ogden Dunes and the Environmental Advisory Board with a monthly spreadsheet indicating how much waste was diverted from a landfill. As of 2008, the rate of recycling was holding at 25 percent, which is good for this area but below the national average of 32 percent. If you notice that your recycling tote has more materials in it than your garbage tote, you are doing pretty well.*

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## Does everything I place in the recycle bin get recycled?

*Unfortunately not. At the Materials Reprocessing Facility (MRF), items like yogurt containers with no number on*

them, waxed drink cartons and bound books, get pulled and landfilled.

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## What kinds of items can and cannot be recycled?

**Paper** that can be recycled includes:

- ✓ Books and paperbacks ripped out of their bindings
- ✓ Brown grocery sacks
- ✓ Cardboard boxes that have been broken down or flattened
- ✓ Cereal, cake mix boxes, tissue boxes and any box made from paperboard
- ✓ Corrugated cardboard
- ✓ Frozen food and dinner boxes (with no food on them)
- ✓ Paper gift wrap – excluding the foil variety
- ✓ Junk mail (stand at your recycling bin and sort your mail – it helps!)
- ✓ Magazines and catalogs (pass them on to friends to read first!)



- ✓ Newspapers (pass them on to friends to read first!)
- ✓ Phonebooks
- ✓ Pizza boxes (from frozen or delivered pizzas)

- ✓ Contrary to popular belief, according to the Recycling and Waste Reduction District of Porter County, shiny and laminated paper can be recycled, just not heavily wax-coated paper.
- ✓ Pringles® potato chip cans
- ✓ Paper cups and plates without a wax coating. (Have you ever considering buying on-line biodegradable paper cups and plates, or ones made with recycled paper? There are many sources on-line, and they are not really that expensive either.)

Paper that, at this time, cannot be recycled includes:

- ⊗ Bound books
- ⊗ Wax-coated cardboard, such as milk cartons and single-use juice cartons



**Glass** that can be recycled includes cleaned out:

- ✓ Drink bottles
- ✓ Jars
- ✓ Wine or liquor bottles
- ✓ Salad dressing bottles
- ✓ Any glass bottle

Unfortunately the following glass items cannot be

recycled:

- ⊗ Mirrors
- ⊗ Broken drinking glasses and cups
- ⊗ Window panes

**Metal** items that can be recycled include (food/drink items should be rinsed out if possible):

- ✓ Aluminum cans and lids
- ✓ Bi-metal cans and lids
- ✓ Soup cans, pop cans, beer cans, cans from canned vegetables...
- ✓ Steel cans and lids
- ⊗ Metal cans containing aerosols, paints and chemicals cannot be recycled.

**Plastic** items that can be recycled include:

- ✓ Plastic containers and lids with the #1 through #7 recycling symbol on the bottom.



○ Items that can sometimes be overlooked include:

- ✓ Shampoo bottles
- ✓ Salad dressing bottles
- ✓ Plastic storage containers

✓ Some plastic packaging may be recycled as long as it has a recycling symbol numbered 1-7.

- In general you should recycle plastic items no larger than a loaf of bread.
- ⊗ Unfortunately you will find most single-serve yogurt containers are not recyclable. (Have you ever considered buying a tub of yogurt instead of single-serving packages?)
- ⊗ If an item does not have a recycling symbol numbered 1-7 on it, it probably should not be recycled. This can include toys, vinyl siding, pool/pond liners, and rubber products.

**With a few exceptions, when in doubt, recycle it!** After our recycled materials are transported to a materials recovery facility, workers pull out things that cannot be recycled, which are then landfilled.

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### Do items need to be separated?

Because we have the wheeled yellow totes, our recycled items do not need to be separated. All recycling is taken to a materials recovery facility where items are sorted, using automated processes in many cases.

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### Do I have to remove caps from bottles before I recycle them?



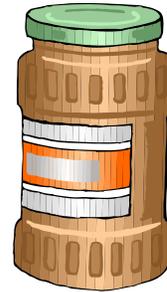
Contrary to popular belief, caps do NOT need to be removed from

bottles. The materials recovery facility or plastics recycler actually pulls them off

the bottle for manufacturing into other plastic products. When you recycle them separately, the caps are less easy to recover and just get landfilled.

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### Do I have to remove labels from jars, bottles and containers?



Labels are burned off in the recycling process and do not need to be removed.

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### Do I need to rinse my containers?

Yes, containers should be rinsed to prevent the machinery that processes the recycled items from getting contaminated and gummed up.

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### Can I recycle plastic bags and/or newspaper sleeves?

Do not place plastic bags and/or newspaper sleeves in the yellow recycling bins. Instead, take them to Town & Country or to Jewel in Chesterton. Better yet, re-use them for other purposes, such as lining trash cans or picking up pet waste. Even better, take a re-usable cloth bag to the grocery store.

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### Can I recycle aluminum foil?

Unfortunately aluminum foil cannot be recycled because it usually has food waste on it.

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### **Can Styrofoam packing, peanuts, cups and plates be recycled?**

Yes, clean Styrofoam packing, peanuts, cups and plates can be recycled. These should be placed in a bag for easier identification at the materials recovery facility.

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### **How do I get rid of household hazardous waste?**

Following is a helpful list on the Recycling and Waste Reduction District of Porter County (RWDPC) website that will give information on how to get those nasty items out of your home, and, more importantly, removed from landfills:

[http://portercounty.net/fileadmin/channel/home\\_and\\_garden/recycling/Office\\_Boklet\\_11-13-07.pdf](http://portercounty.net/fileadmin/channel/home_and_garden/recycling/Office_Boklet_11-13-07.pdf)

The RWDPC also develops an annual calendar of dates and locations for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection days. Visit <http://www.portercounty.net/index.php?id=rwrhome> to find a convenient collection day near you.

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### **What about E-Waste such as computers and monitors?**

Recycling your electronics ensures that the hazardous materials are properly managed and also conserves resources, reduces energy consumption and creates Hoosier jobs. The Recycling and Waste Reduction District of Porter County (RWDPC) makes E-Waste recycling easy by providing an Electronics Recycling Drop-Off site at the

its Compost Site on State Road 130 west of Valparaiso.

- The hours of operation for the E-Waste site are:
  - Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
  - Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- If it took more than one person to load the electronics into your vehicle, bring that person to help you unload the electronics from your vehicle.
- Items accepted include, but are not limited to: computers, monitors, televisions, DVD players, typewriters, copiers, PDAs, VCRs, microwaves, gaming machines, etc.
- Specifics about program limitations (what is accepted and how many are allowed per residential vehicle) may be found on <http://www.portercounty.net/index.php?id=153>.

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### **What about light bulbs, and especially compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs)?**



Unfortunately CFLs, as well as fluorescent tubes, carry a small amount of mercury. The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) site on State Road 130, just west of Valparaiso, accepts these items, but they should be sealed in a plastic bag and tubes should be taped or boxed together.

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### **What about batteries?**

Don't forget to recycle your old household batteries at the drive-up box at the Town Hall, just next to the postal mail box. As of 2008 we have prevented more than 2,200 lbs. of batteries from entering area landfills! This effort also

contributes to the success of Ogden Dunes' participation in the Clean Community Challenge sponsored by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. No car batteries please!

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### **What about old pharmaceuticals?**

Walgreens does not take old medicines back.

Instead, you can bring them to a Recycling &

Waste Reduction District of Porter County Household Hazardous Waste event, which is held each year in different locations around the county. Visit <http://www.portercounty.net/index.php?id=rwrldhome> to find a date and location near you. Medications will only be accepted in their original container. They are then delivered to a special incineration site for disposal.

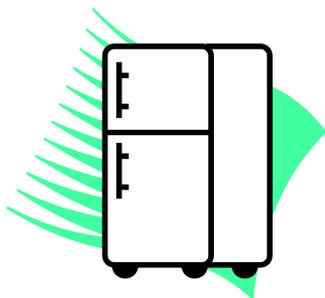
Pharma-Card, 6036 Lute Rd in Portage, also accepts old pharmaceuticals. Bring the medication in the original container with the name blacked-out but still showing the medication name. These are also taken away for special disposal.

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### **How can I recycle large metal items, like appliances or water heaters, otherwise known as "white goods?"**

According to Able Disposal, white goods include:

- ✓ Stoves
- ✓ Dishwashers
- ✓ Washers
- ✓ Dryers
- ✓ Hot water heaters
- ✓ Refrigerators
- ✓ Freezers



In most cases, the store from which you bought a new item will take away an old item. This is especially important for items that contain Freon, such as refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners. Legitimate waste haulers, such as Able Disposal, are licensed to evacuate the Freon from those items and file reports to IDEM on such activities. Scavengers will generally release that Freon into the atmosphere, which is illegal and bad for the environment.

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### **Why is our recycling placed in a regular garbage truck and not one that says "recycling" on it?**

According to the Recycling and Waste Reduction District of Porter County, some companies do utilize the same vehicles to pick up recycling as they do to pick up trash but on separate runs of collection. The reason for utilizing the same vehicle on different runs is to streamline costs, which ultimately keeps costs down for the customer. If a resident ever sees a company tossing trash in the same vehicle as recycling, the Town should be immediately notified.

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### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN RECYCLING!**

**Doing so saves energy, money, reduces pollution and helps create a sustainable economy!**

(Many thanks to the Indiana Recycling Coalition, the Recycling & Waste Reduction District of Porter County and Able Disposal for supplying information and facts for this document.)