

Gratiot Area Solid Waste Authority Recycling Program

If you grew up in the 1970s, '80s, or 90s, you know the three R's of recycling. Reduce, reuse and recycle! We were taught to recycle everything we could. In the 40 years since recycling was introduced, Americans have recycled nearly 87 million tons per year. However, the model we all grew up with is changing, and we have to change with it.

Trying to recycle unclean or unrecyclable material increases sorting time, slows down the recycling process, and damages the facility's equipment. It also causes contaminants in bales of clean recyclables, that decrease the value and can even make them unsaleable. When this occurs, they have to put the ENTIRE load of recyclables into our landfills due to the contamination! Following is information to help ensure the value of the items we are recycling.

Items you CAN recycle



PAPER

Newspaper
Envelopes
Junk mail
Phone books
Brochures
Magazines



CARDBOARD

Cardboard boxes
Poster board
Cereal/shoe boxes
Frozen food boxes
File folders
Ream wrappers



PLASTIC

Water bottles & caps
Detergent Bottles
Single-use containers
Soda bottles & caps
Milk jugs



ALUMINUM/METAL

Aluminum beverage cans
Food cans
Glass jar lids



GLASS

Bottles & jars-
clear, green &
brown

Be sure your recyclables are **EMPTY, CLEAN** and **DRY** before you toss them in your recycling bin!

NON-RECYCLABLE ITEMS

Tissue, napkins
Paper towels
Paper plates
Address labels
Shredded paper



Pizza boxes
Milk cartons
Waxed freezer meal boxes
Containers with food residue

Plastic bags
Plastic wrap
Bubble wrap
Plastic food pouches
Plastic packaging



Aerosol cans
Aluminum foil
Batteries
Light bulbs
Electronic waste

These and other items cannot be recycled in your curbside bin, including CLOTHING, PAINTS, PESTICIDES, MEDICATION, STYROFOAM, FOOD WASTE, AND HEAVY DUTY METALS SUCH AS SHELVES AND PANS.

*These items may be recyclable or disposable in other ways. For example:
Several local charities accept used clothing.*

*The Cities of Alma and St. Louis hold an **annual** drop-off for hazardous household wastes like paint and pesticides. WalMart and Meijer have recycling drop boxes for plastic groceries bags in their lobbies.*

Padnos Central Michigan on Williams Street in Alma will accept metals, electronics, and other things for recycling.

More information can be found on their website at <https://padnos.com>.

Alma Police Department and St. Louis Police Department both accept medication in original containers for disposal.

Many other retail stores have instore recycling areas including: Target, Staples, Best Buy, AutoZone & others.

If you are in doubt about whether an item is recyclable, check with the City, or throw it out.

By practicing EMPTY. CLEAN. DRY. with our families, we can ensure the recycling materials leaving our homes are in fact recyclable! It is worth every effort we can make to protect our planet for our children's children.