



Recycling Glossary



The following are definitions for a few of the common phrases used by recycling and waste reduction advocates.

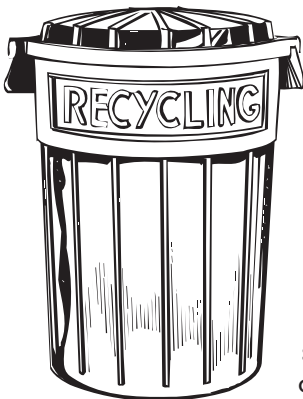
Waste Stream – The total flow of waste materials from homes, industry and community activities. It includes things that may be recycled, reused, landfilled, composted or burned in an incinerator.

Solid Waste – What most of us would call garbage, from household to business trash. This does not include hazardous or liquid waste materials.

Waste Audit – The process of identifying types and quantities of items in the waste stream. A waste audit is a major step in planning a waste management system. It helps determine if changes need to be made in purchasing supplies and it helps encourage waste reduction and recycling in daily activities.

Waste Reduction – Always the first step in becoming environmentally friendly – do not create the waste in the first place. Using ceramic mugs that can be washed and used again instead of paper cups is an example of waste reduction.

Cardboard, commonly called OCC (old corrugated cardboard) - Most recycling companies that collect cardboard actually will take only corrugated cardboard. This includes heavy boxes like those used in packing appliances. It does not include cereal boxes that are actually known in the industry as chipboard.



Newsprint, commonly called ONP (old newspaper) – Paper that is usually used in newspapers. Collection of newspapers will vary in each community. ONP preparation will depend on the recycling company that is taking the paper. For example, some companies take ONP with advertising slicks included, while others prefer to remove the ad slicks before collection.

High Grade Paper – Relatively valuable paper such as computer paper, ledger paper and white office paper.

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Bond Paper, commonly called white office paper – A high grade of paper usually used for forms, offset printing, copy paper, stationery, etc.

Computer Paper, commonly called CPO (computer print-out) – One of the highest grades of paper. It includes green-bar, gray/blue bar and white computer paper.

Mixed Office Paper, sometimes called Office Pack – Contains many types of non-coated office paper from CPO to ONP. It is usually considered a lower grade paper.

Polyethylene terephthalate, (PET) – This is a type of plastic resin that can be recycled. The most common use is for soft drink bottles.

High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) – This is a recyclable plastic used in milk jugs and detergent bottles.

Steel Cans, properly known as BI-Metal Cans and often called “Tin” cans – These cans typically hold items like soup, vegetables, and pet food. These cans are 99 percent steel with a thin layer of tin to prevent rusting.



Post-Consumer – Materials (waste or recyclables) left after the use of a product purchased by a consumer. A plastic milk jug is post-consumer waste, it is what is left after the consumer uses up the primary product.

Pre-Consumer – Materials (waste or recyclables) generated before products are sold at retail, usually during the manufacturing or shipping process.



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