

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

8 Easy Tips for Students and Schools



TIP #1

Reuse last year's unused materials before buying all new ones



TIP #2

Buy school supplies made from recycled products



TIP #3

Avoid buying products that are packaged in a lot of plastic



TIP #4

Save packaging (like egg cartons) for arts and crafts projects



TIP #5

Use a reusable lunch box and food packaging (like reusable snack bags)



TIP #6

Only grab as much food as you need if you buy lunch to avoid food waste



TIP #7

Start a composting program at school or home



TIP #8

Post flyers throughout the school to remind people to recycle

Get more tips at [EPA.GOV/RECYCLE](https://www.epa.gov/recycle).

BUSTING MYTHS ABOUT RECYCLING

MYTH

You should put all your recyclables in plastic bags



Plastic bottle caps aren't recyclable



You can recycle styrofoam



All paper is recyclable



You can totally recycle your pizza box



FACT

Don't do it! Even though the bag is itself recyclable, plastic bags slow down and jam the recycling process

You **CAN** now recycle plastic bottle caps. But please note—It's better to recycle the bottle with the cap on it because if an unscrewed cap slips through the sorting line, it is likely to end up in a landfill.

Even though it's made from a material **you can technically recycle**, your local plant might not be able to process it just yet.

Double check! Shredded paper is technically recyclable, but it reduces the quality of the paper, which means not all recyclers will accept the mixed-grade paper.

Pizza boxes **AREN'T** recyclable. The grease on the box makes it unacceptable for recycling. This can be the same for any food or liquid container, like milk cartons. When you can, rinse out the container before putting it in the recycling bin. And for those containers that you can't get clean, it's best to toss it in the trash.

Get more info on recycling at SMITHSONIANMAG.COM.

National
PTA
everychild.onevoice.®



WHAT CAN I RECYCLE?

You Have More Options Than Ever Before!



METALS

Do you think of your empty soda cans and food cans as a natural resource? They are! Recycle your aluminum cans, aluminum foil and bakeware (rinse the food off first!), steel cans and tin cans!



PAPER/CARDBOARD

Most of us use a paper product every day. In fact, upwards of 63% (45 million tons) is recycled annually. Let's get closer to 100%! Recycle your cardboard boxes, magazines, office paper, newspapers, paperboard, juice cartons, old mail and any phone books you still have lying around the house!



GLASS

Most glass bottles and jars produced in the United States now contain at least 27% recycled glass—which also saves on energy to produce glass made from new materials. You can recycle clear glass, brown glass and green glass.



BATTERIES & BULBS

Unwanted batteries and bulbs should never be mixed with other recyclables, but many are easy to recycle through other options. Check with your local recycling municipality to see how you can safely dispose of car batteries, household batteries, rechargeable batteries and light bulbs.



PLASTICS

Did you know that every year we produce enough plastic film in this country to shrink-wrap Texas? You can recycle bottles, jars, jugs and more—just make sure they're clean!



ELECTRONICS

Unwanted electronics can't be mixed with other recyclables but are easy to recycle through other options. Call your local municipality to find an electronics drop-off center or visit Earth911.com for other options.

Get more tips and info on recycling from Waste Management at WM.COM/THINKGREEN.

