

SORTING IT OUT

For cleaner recycling, focus on the basic four

Recycling rules are dictated by the facility that accepts the materials, not by the product manufacturer or any symbols or words they put on their product. Fortunately for Rhode Islanders, there is only one facility in the state — RI Resource Recovery Corporation — that takes residential curbside recycling, meaning we all follow the same rules wherever we are in the state. This is not the case for many other states which leads to a lot of confusion. To increase our recycling rate in 2026, let us review the four basic categories of recyclables:

- Fiber = Paper, Cardboard, and Cartons. Paper & cardboard should be flat, and cartons should be in their original

shape, and you can keep the caps on (even if they're plastic). The multilayer "tetrapaks" that hold soup and shelf-stable milks are included in this category and are recyclable. Shredded paper does NOT go in the recycling bin as it is too small to be sorted out.

- Glass = Bottles and jars only, with lids removed (metal lids can be recycled separately).

- Metal = Cans, lids, and foil only. This includes soda cans, food cans, and foil wrap and containers with minimal food residue. The Rose Hill Transfer Station accepts scrap metal that doesn't fit into this category.

- Plastic = Containers only. It doesn't matter what color the plastic is, if it is a container

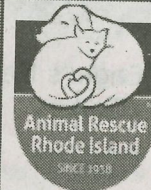
and can hold its shape (and doesn't crinkle, splinter, and isn't a bag or film) then it can be recycled. Size matters though, it should be bigger than 2"x2" up to the size of a 5-gallon bucket. The Rose Hill Transfer Station accepts "rigid plastic" that is large or doesn't fit into this category. Plastic bags and film can be brought to drop off bins at participating stores like Stop & Shop and CVS.

Rhode Island practices "single stream recycling," which means you can put materials from all four categories in the same bin.

"When in doubt, throw it out!" If your item doesn't clearly fall into one of these categories, it's likely trash. Believe it or not, it's better to

throw something that's potentially recyclable in the trash, than throw something that's NOT recyclable in the recycling bin. Contamination of recycling slows down the system and leads to a lower value product. For questions, see rirc.org/az-search or call your Recycling Coordinator.

'Sorting It Out' is a recurring column of The Independent Newspaper that features recycling and composting tips from Charlotte Canner, the Recycling Coordinator for the towns of South Kingstown and Narragansett it will appear monthly in the newspaper.



ANIMAL RESCUE RHODE ISLAND

(401) 783-7606

506B Curtis Corner Road, Peace Dale

Mailing address: P.O. Box 458, Wakefield, RI 02880-0458



FAGAN~QUINN FUNERAL HOME

Family Owned and Operated Since 1857

Traditional Funerals to Simple Cremation Services
Pre-Arrangements & Pre-Financing Available

Managing Funeral Director Christopher P. Quinn

Directors Michael F. Quinn, Patrick J. Quinn, Jerome D. Quinn, Stanley G. Larson

Interns Michael J. Quinn, Ryan E. Quinn, Brendan J. Quinn

(401) 295-5603

825 Boston Neck Rd., North Kingstown, RI • www.FaganQuinnFuneralHome.com