

What Happens to My Recycling?

Aluminum

The average American uses 392 cans per person per year. Over 50% of the aluminum produced gets recycled. Every minute of every day, an average of 113,204 aluminum cans is recycled.

What it gets recycled into:

Aluminum can be recycled over 100 times! It is said that an aluminum can sent to a recycling center can be back on the shelf as aluminum can within 60 days. Other products such as foil, pie tins and cooking pans can contain recycled aluminum.

Glass

Recycling a jam jar today can produce a juice bottle next month, then a coffee jar, then a milk bottle, a pickle jar, a ketchup bottle etc. Glass may be recycled an infinite number of times; it never loses strength.

What it gets recycled into:

Recycled glass products include glass tiles, road paving additive, marbles, jewelry, fiberglass insulation and material for the sand blasting industry. In some parts of the country they use recycled glass to shore up our beaches and help prevent erosion.

Plastic

Every 1 ton of plastic recycled saves almost *1800 pounds of oil*. Five recycled plastic bottles make enough fiberfill to stuff one ski jacket, or to make a Men's XL t-shirt.

What it gets recycled into:

Half of all polyester carpet manufactured in the US is made from recycled soda bottles. Recycled plastic is also made into plastic lumber, construction materials, clothing, flower pots, insulation for sleeping bags, ski jackets, car bumpers and much more. A small percent gets made back into drinking bottles.

Paper

About 89 percent of newspaper and 81 percent of corrugated cardboard are recovered each year. The EPA estimates that the average office worker in the US uses 10,000 sheets of copy paper each year. That's four million tons of copy paper used annually. Office workers in the US generate approximately two pounds of paper and paperboard products every day.

What it gets recycled into:

Besides easily recognizable paper products (e.g., writing paper or paper towels), more than 5,000 products can be made from recycled paper, including: masking tape, paper money, globes, dust masks, coffee filters, lamp shades, car insulation, animal bedding, planting pots for seedlings and egg cartons.

Tin and steel

Through recycling each year, the steel industry saves enough energy to power 18 million homes. The average American uses 142 steel cans annually.

What it gets recycled into:

Recycled steel is made into steel cans, building materials, tools - in fact, almost everything steel.