

# RECYCLING

## D · E · C · O · D · E · D

With all of today's concern about the environment and climate change, **recycling** is one of the easiest things you can do to make a difference. What isn't always easy is getting it right! Your first step is decoding all the available information. Don't forget, just because your plastic bottle has that little triangular symbol and number (known as a resin identification code) on its bottom doesn't mean you can just toss it in a bin.



making it **fun**

**D**oing your part for planet Earth doesn't have to be dull. Check out **Recycling Saturdays** at Discovery Green every Saturday from 10-2. Waste Management and the City of Houston have partnered with Discovery Green to provide a recycling location for paper, glass, plastic and cans. And on the first Saturday of each month, enjoy environmentally friendly product demos, artist workshops and hands-on activities. [discoverygreen.com](http://discoverygreen.com)

### Still need help?

The City staffs a recycling hotline to answer all your questions. Call 713.837.9130 or 311. Of course, you can always go online for more info [greenhouston.tx.gov](http://greenhouston.tx.gov) and [houston.tx.gov/solidwaste/index.html](http://houston.tx.gov/solidwaste/index.html)

*While any recycling you do is helpful, cans, plastic and glass account for less than 10 percent each of household waste. We throw away four times that much paper, so be sure you're doing all you can to reduce, reuse and recycle.*

## the basics

- Remove any caps (they're usually not recyclable).
- Rinse and drain food containers.
- Crush cans and plastic to maximize space.
- Don't forget to take your plastic bags back to the grocery store for recycling.
- Getting your materials ready for recycling is easy and shouldn't take more than a few minutes a day. The most important thing to do is rinse any leftover contents from your food containers so you won't attract bugs.

### Don't forget the paper

- Stack your newspapers and paper products (use a paper bag to keep things tidy).
- Carry your own cloth bags when you shop.
- Use recycled paper and watch your use of paper in the office.
- Read magazines and news papers online.
- Bring your own washable plates, utensils and napkins for lunch.

### Did you know?

Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a computer for three hours. • It takes 70 percent less energy to produce a ton of paper from recycled paper than from trees. • Recycling one glass jar saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours. • The average office worker uses 10,000 sheets of paper each year.

## WHAT DOES THE CITY OF HOUSTON RECYCLE?

Every city has its own recycling program so check with your municipality for their rules.

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|---|--|
| Plastic bottles and jugs marked with no. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 7 | Aluminum, tin and steel cans   |
| Newspapers  | Glass food and beverage bottles and jars   |
| Office paper  | Cardboard boxes (yes, cereal boxes are OK, but be sure to remove the inside bag) |
| Telephone books   |  |
| Unwanted mail   |  |
| Magazines and catalogs                                      |  |

