

# NON ACCEPTABLE ITEMS



## There is some stuff you just can't put in the blue box!

The Bluewater Recycling Association is committed to ensuring that all recyclable materials that have sustainable end markets are accepted through the local blue box program.

Unfortunately, there are some materials that are not currently acceptable for a variety of reasons including the unavailability of suitable end markets. The list below explains the materials we get asked about the most often.

### Ketchup or Orange Juice

Squeezeable ketchup bottles and other squeezable containers for syrup, BBQ sauce, plum sauce etc. are typically made from Polypropylene or a mix of other resins. Because of the characteristics and properties of this type of plastic, such as its resistance to chemicals, heat and fatigue, there are no options available for recycling. Some orange containers have a AND because of the UV barrier made of nylon making them not recyclable.



**Alternatives:** Purchase these items in steel cans or glass jars that are recyclable or simply refill the squeeze container.

### Tetra Paks

This material, sometimes referred to as Tetra Paks, is called aseptic packaging and is made up of 3 materials: 70% paper, 24% polyethylene and 6% aluminum. There is currently only one facility that accept this material due a special process of recycling called hydro-pulping allowing for the recovery of the paper layers only. This type of single serving container has an excessive amount of packaging including the drinking straw & wrapper.



**Alternatives:** Purchase juice in a large glass or plastic container which can be put into a reusable plastic or glass container.

### Microwaveable Trays

PET Microwaveable trays/containers are often black or some other dark colour and when they are melted to make new plastic products cannot be coloured because of their dark pigment. This makes it difficult for recyclers to make new products such as carpets or clothing if they cannot colour the plastic resin. Likewise, those trays may also have a chlorinated coating.



**Alternatives:** Avoid single serving microwaveable trays when possible. Look for reusable containers or ones that are recyclable.

### Polystyrene

Polystyrene is more commonly known as Styrofoam® for its trademark, but it comes in many shapes and forms such as plates and cups as well as the plastic forks and knives you are likely using. Polystyrene only has one available market with limited capacity. This market limitation combined with the potential of food contamination, and the low weight density of these containers make them economically unfeasible for recycling.



**Alternatives:** Use reusable cups, plates, and cutlery whenever possible.

### Gable Top

When cardboard or boxboard is coated with wax it is referred to as polycoat. Because the wax is not water soluble like the paper fibres, it makes those containers extremely difficult to recycle. Only a special paper mill equipped with a hydropulper can handle this type of material. Lack of volume and distance to market make it not economically feasible to collect this type of material at this time.



**Alternatives:** Use containers made from HDPE or milk pouches which are made from LDPE film.

### Oversize

These types of containers (over 10 litres) are difficult to process because of their size and density. They typically block the proper flow of material in our facility or jam the grinders used by our end market. Because they are often used in commercial and industrial settings they sometimes held concentrated chemicals that can adversely react when handled. Handles also create problems.



**Alternatives:** Consider using smaller containers (less than 10 litres). Reuse the containers when possible.

### Cookie Trays

PET cookie trays, and other prepared salads and vegetables referred to as clam shell packaging often contain some non-plastic filler such as glycol, which is not compatible with either rigid screw top containers or wide mouth tubs.



**Alternatives:** Purchase cookies in bulk or, better yet, make your own fresh ones. They are always better hot anyway.

### Coffee Cups

These types of containers are treated with a special coating to prevent the liquid inside from seeping out, and therefore cannot be mixed with other paper products. For the same reason we cannot take frozen concentrate juice/drink containers.



**Alternatives:** As an alternative to single serving coffee cups, why not use a reusable mug when you go to the coffee shop?