

We Separate Our Recycling and Food Waste!



We're making a difference when we make less trash!

Why Recycle?

RECYCLING:

- conserves natural resources and protects animal habitats
- saves energy and water
- reduces greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution
- creates jobs and helps the economy
- saves landfill space / money



Why Separate Food Waste?

- Increase incinerator efficiency (wet food waste doesn't burn easily)
- Reduce incinerator ash
- Reduce disposal costs
- Anaerobic digestion creates:
 - ✓ Clean energy
 - ✓ Fertilizer



We Separate Recycling and Food Waste



TRAYS
EMPTY

**FOOD
WASTE**
Compostable
PAPER

All Food
Napkins
Paper Towels
Paper Bowls
Paper Plates
Waxed Paper

TRASH
EVERYTHING ELSE

Forks, Spoons, Knives
Wrappers
Chip Bags
Milk Cartons, Juice Boxes
Yogurt Cups*
Mini Plastic Cups

*Too much food on it to recycle
it at school. At home, rinse and
recycle it.

RECYCLE
EMPTY - NO FOOD

Plastic Cups
Sandwich Containers
Cereal Bowls
Bottles
Cans
Foil
Paper Bags
Boxes

LIQUIDS

Drinks
Soup
Cereal Milk
Ice

Thank you!
Making less trash
makes a difference!

Let's Get Ready to Clean Up!

Before getting up from the table:

DRINK IT, OPEN IT

- Try to finish your drink.
- Make the opening bigger so it pours out faster.

EAT IT, UNWRAP IT, POUR IT, CHECK IT

- Try to eat all your food.
The best place for your food is your stomach!
- Take food out of wrappers.
- Pour food out of containers onto your tray so the container is ready for recycling.
- Check your foil. Foil recycles if clean.

PILE IT

- Put all trash items together -- forks, plastic wrappers, mini cups, straws, etc.
- Then you can grab them all at once and put them in the TRASH.

When it's time to clean up:



Start at
LIQUIDS



RECYCLE



TRASH



FOOD WASTE and
COMPOSTABLE PAPER



TRAYS

Thank you!

You are making a difference!



CAMBRIDGE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Questions? Contact DPW:
617-349-4836
recycle@cambridgema.gov

A few steps beforehand...



...makes clean up easy!

**Try to drink all
your drink...**



**...and eat
all your
food.**



Make the opening
bigger so liquid
pours out faster.



- ✓ **Unopened food / drink?**
- ✓ **Fruit you didn't bite?**
- ✓ **Put it on the Share Table!**

Just items from school
breakfast/lunch, not
from home.



UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP

UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP

UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP
UNWRAP

unwrap

Unwrap!

Take food out of wrappers and containers.

Put food on tray, put wrappers together.



Make a trash pile!

Pile all
the trash
items
together.



Then you can easily pick them
up and put them in the trash.

Pour liquids here.



“It’s gotta be
empty to go in recycling!”

Pour in the sink:

LIQUIDS



- Milk
- Juice
- Water
- Cereal Milk
- Ice
- Soup

Recycling goes here.



“It’s gotta be
empty to go in recycling!”



Containers must be EMPTY. No food.

Plastic Cups & Bowls



Bottles & Cans



Foil



Paper Bags & Boxes



No liquids.

No food.

YES! Recycle This!





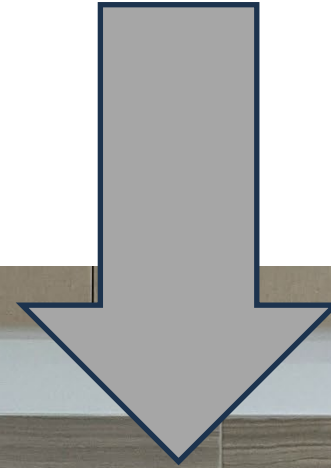
FOIL can go in recycling!

While at your table:

- Take food out of foil

If there's A LOT of food on it,
put it in the **TRASH**.

Trash goes here.





TRASH

EVERYTHING ELSE



Utensils • Straws



Milk Cartons • Juice Boxes



Plastic Bags • Plastic Wrappers



Yogurt Cups • Smoothie Cups

*Too dirty to recycle.
At home, rinse and recycle it.



Condiment Packets Mini Plastic Cups



Yogurt cups are too
dirty at school so they go in
the TRASH.

At home, rinse
and recycle!

What about other plastic cups
with food on them? **TRASH**



What about the **mini plastic cups**? **TRASH**

They're too small to recycle.

What about **condiment cups** like for syrup? **TRASH**

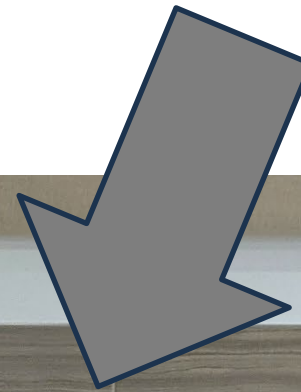
They're also too small to recycle AND they are covered in food.

Where does the syrup go? Isn't it a liquid?

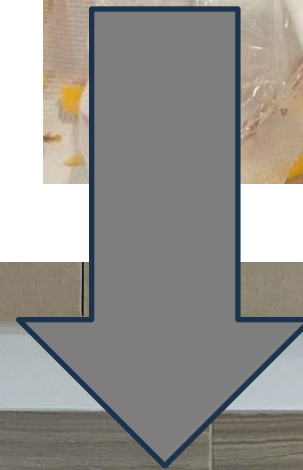
It's too messy so we put it in the **TRASH**.



Cartons are **TRASH**

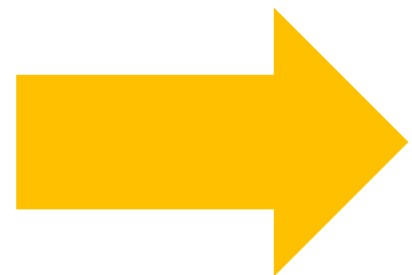


Plastic
wrappers
in trash.



Reminder 😊

Put your trash in a pile before heading to the waste station.



Then it will be easy to grab it and put it in the trash.



FOOD WASTE

Compostable PAPER



Napkins • Paper Towels



Paper Bowls • Paper Plates



Waxed Paper

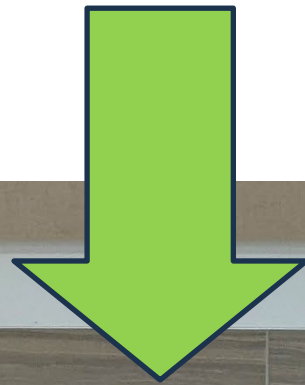


No plastic-coated items.

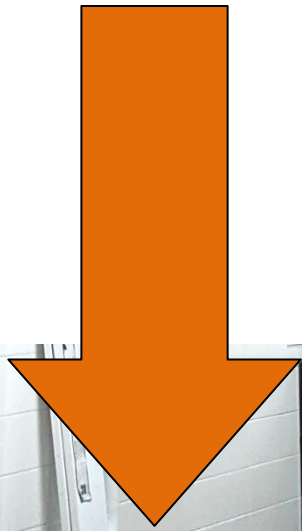
All food.

Napkins and paper towels.

Paper bowls and paper plates.



Trays go here!



← Empty



THANK YOU!



What happens to the food and compostable paper?

It's used to make energy!

It goes to an Anaerobic Digester.

MICROBES eat it.

When they eat it, they make gas.

The gas – methane – is captured to make HEAT and ELECTRICITY.





Containers must be EMPTY. No food.

Plastic Cups & Bowls



Bottles & Cans



Foil



Paper Bags & Boxes

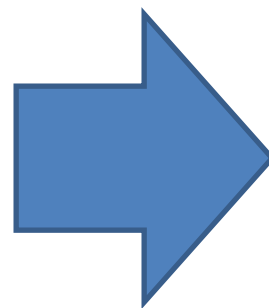


What happens to our recycling?

First, our recycling goes to be sorted. Items are sorted by the material they are made from (metal, glass, paper, plastic).

Then, they are sold to companies. The companies use them **to make new things** like metal cans, cereal boxes, and plastic pipes.

Watch a video of how your items get sorted [here](#).



A green starburst shape with a purple outline, containing the text "Quiz Time!".

Quiz
Time!

**Where's the BEST
place for your food?**

Where's the BEST place for your food?

IN YOUR STOMACH

Try and eat all your food and drink all your drink.

**What do you do with
whole fruit you haven't
taken a bite of, and food
and drinks you haven't
opened?**

What do you do with whole fruit you haven't taken a bite of, and food and drinks you haven't opened?

PUT IT ON THE SHARE TABLE

Only items from school lunch and breakfast. No items from home.
No peanut butter, thanks.

**What do you do with
trash items while
you're still at your
table?**

What do you do with trash items while you're still at your table?

PUT THEM IN A PILE

Then you can easily pick up all the trash items and put them in the trash can.

**Do you start at the
LIQUIDS first?**

Do you start at the LIQUIDS first?

YES!

Start at the LIQUIDS.

Deal with your drink first.

**Do your water and juice
cups and water bottles
need to be empty to go
in the recycling?**

Do your water and juice cups and water bottles need to be empty to go in the recycling?

YES!

It's got to be empty to go in the recycling!

**Do cartons go in the
recycling?**

Do cartons go in the recycling?

NO.

Cartons go in the trash. They aren't accepted in the recycling bins.

**Do we recycle yogurt
cups at school?**

Do we recycle yogurt cups at school?

NO.

Yogurt cups are too dirty at school, so they go in the trash.

At home, rinse them out and recycle them!

**Does food have to be
unwrapped?**

Does food have to be unwrapped?

YES!

Unwrap your food while at your table.
Then it's easy to put plastic wrappers
in the trash.



**Thanks for taking
the quiz!**

Thanks for separating your
recycling and food waste!
You are making a difference!