

# The Gainesville Zero Waste News

## Surprisingly Common Items That Are Not Recyclable

Confusion about what can and can't be recycled is widespread, and with recycling rules varying from one place to another, it doesn't make it any easier. However, keeping non-recyclable materials out of recycling bins is crucial to reducing processing costs and maintaining strong market demand for recycled materials.

Here are seven items that most recycling programs do not accept:



1. **Store receipts** – Most receipts are printed on thermal paper coated with chemicals that make them unsuitable for recycling.
2. **Plastic single-use cups** – Don't be misled by the recycling arrows; these cups are made from lower-grade plastic, which is not widely recyclable.
3. **Ceramic bottles & jars** – Common in high-end beauty products, these items differ from glass beverage containers and can contaminate recycling streams.
4. **Paper coffee cups** – The plastic lining that keeps these cups waterproof also makes them non-recyclable. However, the cardboard sleeves are usually recyclable.
5. **Plastic straws & utensils** – Most straws, forks, spoons, and knives are usually made from non-recyclable plastics and are too small to be processed effectively.
6. **Pizza boxes** – The greasy, oil-soaked bottoms of pizza boxes can't be recycled. However, the clean tops can be torn off and recycled.
7. **Insulating liners** – Often used in meal kit deliveries, these liners can tangle in sorting machinery and should not be placed in recycle bins.

To find out what items are recyclable locally, visit the Zero Waste Wizard at [gainesvillefl.gov/WasteWizard](https://gainesvillefl.gov/WasteWizard).

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