



725 E. Clark, Wichita, KS 67211
Open: Tue & Thurs 1-4 p.m. & Sat 9-3 p.m.
Web: prokansasrecycling.org

What Happens to Recyclables?

Plastics

In the U.S. market, **95% of plastic bottles are made from PET (48%) or HDPE (47%)**, which are standard materials for bottle manufacturing.

- **70% of recycled water, juice, and soda bottles** are used to make new containers, including water bottles, or are used to make fiber products like carpet and clothing.
- The **"milk jug" category is very valuable** due to its neutral color, allowing it to be made into a wide variety of products.
- **29% of recycled milk and laundry detergent bottles** are repurposed into new bottles.
- This **HDPE is also used to produce** plastic pipe, lawn and garden products (such as edging), plastic lumber (used for decks, benches, and picnic tables), film and sheet manufacturing (for plastic bags), and injection-molded products (such as buckets, crates, and automobile parts).
- **Plastic benches or picnic tables** may be made from any of the plastics we collect. Trex makes them from plastic bags. They may cost more than wood tables, but they offer long life, weather resistance, and easy maintenance.

Corrugated Cardboard

Over **90% of all products in the United States** are shipped in boxes.

- **70% of all corrugated cardboard is recovered for recycling**, making it the largest source of recycled waste paper.
- **Cardboard can be recycled numerous times** without losing strength. Some is repurposed into pasteboard boxes, such as cereal boxes, but most is turned into new corrugated cardboard boxes.

Newspapers

- **30% of recycled newspaper fibers** are used to create new newspapers. Additionally, they are used in cereal boxes, egg cartons, cellulose insulation, tissue paper, and other products.

Magazines

- **Repurposed into newspaper and pasteboard boxes.**
- The **clay** used to make magazine paper shiny **is sometimes used** to help remove ink from other paper being recycled.

Aluminum and Tin/Steel Cans

- **Over 50% of aluminum cans are recycled extensively**, with a rapid closed-loop process. An aluminum container can be recycled and **back on the shelf in 60 days**.
- Aluminum is a durable and sustainable metal; **two-thirds of all aluminum ever produced is still in use** today.
- Producing new aluminum cans from used ones **uses 95% less energy**. Therefore, the energy to make 20 recycled cans equals that needed to produce just one can from virgin ore.
- While most cans are recycled into new cans, they also go into sheet metal, car parts, and various other products.

Glass

- Glass is primarily **recycled over and over** into new glass bottles and other glass products. Additionally, it is used to make fiberglass insulation.

Where We Send Our Recyclables

Much of our collected material is processed in or near Wichita.

- **Paper:** Primarily sold to International Paper in Wichita. Mixed paper is sent to Georgia Pacific in Muskogee, OK.
- **Plastic Bottles:** Sent to Georgia to make carpeting, Ohio for new bottles, or other locations for clothing and other uses.
- **Plastic Bags:** Typically sent to TREX in Virginia for plastic wood products, such as decking and fencing.
- **#5 Plastic:** Shipped to various U.S. locations for items such as phone cases, bottle caps, cottage cheese tubs, plastic pipe and more.
- **Aluminum and Tin Cans:** Sold to buyers in Wichita.
- **Glass:** Sent to McPherson for fiberglass insulation manufacturing.

IMPORTANT: Many recyclables are at risk of being sent to landfills due to contamination, such as dirty, wet, or food-contaminated materials. At PPro Kansas, we prevent this by closely monitoring incoming items from the start. Most dirty material is turned away before it can ruin anything else. This ensures effective recycling and reduces landfill waste.