



725 E. Clark, Wichita KS 67211  
Public Hours: Tue & Thu 1-4 p.m. & Sat 9-3 p.m.  
[prokansasrecycling.org](http://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. These are types of polyethylene.
- **56% of recycled water, juice, soda and sport drink bottles** are used to manufacture fiber products like carpet and clothing.
- **14% of recycled drink bottles** are transformed into new containers, including water bottles.
- **29% of recycled milk and laundry detergent bottles** are made into new bottles and **18%** are used in the production of plastic pipe. These bottles may also become lawn and garden products (such as edging), plastic lumber (used for decks, benches and picnic tables), film (as in plastic bags) and injection-molded products (like buckets, crates and automobile parts).
- Although a plastic bench or picnic table may cost more upfront, it offers long life, weather resistance and easy maintenance.

### Corrugated Cardboard

- Over **90% of all products in the United States are shipped in boxes**.
- Encouragingly, **70% of all corrugated cardboard is recovered for recycling**, making it the largest sources 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, with additional utilization in cereal boxes, egg cartons, cellulose insulation materials, tissue paper and various other product.
- Recycled newspaper also has an export market, with many old newspapers being sent to Canada to produce newsprint.

### Magazines

- Magazines are 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 & Tin/Steel Cans

- **Over 50% of aluminum cans** are recycled with a rapid closed-loop process. A used aluminum can may be recycled and back on the shelf in as little as 60 days.
- Aluminum is a durable and sustainable metal. **Two-thirds of all aluminum ever produced is still in use today.**
- Every minute, an average of 113,204 aluminum cans are recycled.
- **Producing new aluminum cans from used ones uses 95% less energy.** Recycling produces 20 cans with the energy needed to produce just one can from scratch.
- While most cans are recycled into new cans, they can also become sheet metal, car parts and various other products.

## Glass

- Glass is primarily recycled over and over into new glass bottles, with additional utilization in other glass products and fiberglass insulation.

## Where PPro Kansas Sends Recyclables

- **Paper** is primarily sold to International Paper in Wichita. **Mixed paper** is sent to Georgia Pacific in Muskogee, OK.
- **Plastic bottles** may be sent to Georgia to make carpeting, Ohio for new bottles or other locations for clothing and other uses.
- **Plastic bags** typically go to Trex in Virginia for plastic wood (decking, fencing, etc.)
- **#5 plastic** has been shipped to many locations in the U.S. and can be used for anything from phone cases, bottle caps, cottage cheese tubs, plastic pipe and more.
- **Aluminum & tin cans** are sold to buyers in Wichita. Most are made into new cans.
- **Glass** is sent to McPherson for fiberglass insulation manufacturing.
- **A surprising amount of material goes back to our community.** Wichita Public Library and Exploration place get 2-liter bottles for kid's programs, gardeners get cardboard and newspaper for weed control, school teachers and home schoolers take magazines, newspaper and other materials for projects or study, nice boxes are offered again as moving boxes, egg cartons are picked up by farmers and lots of misc. items are brought to the free table. **AND, do not forget the library!** Thousands of books are brought in and taken home by the community each year.

**IMPORTANT:** (1) Our buyers have two hard rules: NO DIRT and NO FOOD WASTE.

(2) Curbside recyclers can collect all materials and then send what they don't want over to their trash side. At PPro Kansas Recycling, we don't have a trash side. Most dirty material is turned away before it can ruin anything else. This ensures effective recycling and reduces resource and landfill waste.

Mike Hastings, President, PPro Kansas Recycling

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