

# Frequently Asked Questions About Cartons

# FAQ?

## > **What is a carton?**

Cartons are a type of packaging for food and beverage products you can purchase at the store. They are easy to recognize and are available in two types—shelf-stable and refrigerated.

### **Shelf-stable cartons** (*types of products*)

Juice  
Milk  
Soy Milk  
Soup and broth  
Wine

*You will find these products on the shelves in grocery stores.*



### **Refrigerated** (*types of products*)

Milk  
Juice  
Cream  
Egg substitutes

*You will find these products in the chilled sections of grocery stores.*



## > **Are cartons recyclable?**

Yes! Cartons are recyclable. In fact, the paper fiber contained in cartons is extremely valuable and useful to make new products.

## > **How do I recycle cartons?**

Please place rinsed, empty cartons with your plastic, metal and glass containers in your blue recycling bin.

## > **Wait, you just said cartons are made mainly from paper. Don't I want to put them with other paper recyclables?**

Good question. The answer is no. Once cartons arrive at your local recycling facility, they will be sorted separately from the rest of the materials. To make this work at the facility, it is easier to modify how containers are sorted than paper. In the end, as long as all cartons are sorted and baled together, the material will then be recycled.

## > **Do I need to remove the cap or straw when recycling my cartons?**

Yes, please remove caps and straws.

## > **Do I need to rinse my cartons?**

Yes - a quick rinse will ensure the carton is empty and alleviate any potential odor problems that may arise from storing your recyclables for collection.

## > **Is there a waxy coating on cartons? Isn't that why they are difficult to recycle?**

What you may see as wax on a carton is actually a thin layer of polyethylene (plastic). Cartons are not difficult to recycle as long as the right systems are in place to do so.

