

Aluminum and Glass Recycling Facts

America Recycles Day® is a Keep America Beautiful® national program held on and around Nov. 15, and celebrated in communities across the country. All of us can make a meaningful difference by improving and increasing our recycling behavior. With the support of America Recycles Day partner Michelob Ultra, Keep America Beautiful is sharing facts about the importance of recycling aluminum and glass to help save resources and energy, and support a circular economy. When you choose to purchase items, especially those that are packaged in aluminum or glass, choose to support a clean environment and a circular economy by recycling.

General Facts

1. Aluminum cans are infinitely recyclable with nearly 75% of all aluminum ever produced still in use today.
2. In as few as 60 days, the aluminum can that contains your favorite beverage may have been manufactured, filled, sold, recycled, and remanufactured.
3. Over the past 30 years, glass bottles have been reduced in weight by approximately 40% saving energy in shipping.
4. Glass bottles are 100% recyclable and can be recycled indefinitely.
5. Recycle only glass containers used for food and beverages; other types of glass, such as windows, ovenware, Pyrex, crystal, etc. are manufactured through a different process and are not recyclable.

Economic Facts

1. The cost to recycle a can is less than the cost to manufacture a new can.
2. Recycling aluminum cans supports the economic viability of your community's recycling program.
3. Recycled glass is part of the recipe for making new glass, and the more that is used, the greater the decrease in energy used in the furnace.
4. Nationwide, over 530,000 jobs are attributed to the recycling industry. Landfilling 1,000 tons of waste creates 1 job, while recycling 1,000 tons of materials creates 9 jobs.

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Energy and Emissions Savings

1. Making beverage cans from recycled aluminum cuts air pollution by about 95%.
2. Tossing away an aluminum can wastes as much energy as pouring out half of that can's volume in gasoline.
3. Twenty recycled aluminum cans can be manufactured with the energy needed to produce just one can from virgin ore.
4. Mining raw materials for aluminum takes 20 times more energy than recycling aluminum.
5. Recycling aluminum saves more than 90% of the energy required to produce new aluminum products versus producing new metal from virgin ore.
6. Recycling 40 aluminum cans provides the energy saving equivalent of one gallon of gasoline.
7. Recycled glass reduces emissions and consumption of raw materials, extends the life of glass manufacturing equipment, such as furnaces, and saves energy.
8. Over one ton of natural resources are saved for every ton of glass recycled.

Recycling programs vary from community to community. Always check with your local recycling provider to learn what materials can be accepted for recycling.



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A KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL® PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 15

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