

## Recycling Rules!

Recycling should be easy, and it doesn't get much easier than curbside recycling. There are only a few basic rules. First, check your hauler's recycling guidelines. If they didn't send a list of accepted materials when you started your subscription, you can find your hauler's guide online by visiting [www.barrycounty.org/barrycountyrecycles/resources.php](http://www.barrycounty.org/barrycountyrecycles/resources.php). Second, rinse and empty all plastic, glass, and metal containers. They don't need to be spotless, but most of the contents should be removed. Third, flatten your cardboard - big bulky cardboard will fill up your bin and trucks much quicker than flattened cardboard. Lastly, and arguably most importantly, put all recyclables loose in the bin. That means absolutely NO BAGS! Do not bag your recyclables or put plastic bags in your bin at all.

Instead, make a bag of bags or a box of bags; any container will do for transportation really. Bring your bag of bags (or other holding cell of bags) to your nearest store drop-off. Walmart, Meijer, Target, and other big-name stores like this have bins right by the doors to drop off all your #2 and #4 plastic bags. That includes plastic shopping bags, retail bags, bread bags, produce bags, case and product overwrap (like the plastic around a case of water bottles), bubble wrap, air pillows, plastic shipping envelopes, bubble mailers, ice bags, cereal box liners, and newspaper sleeves. To reduce your use of plastic shopping bags, consider switching to paper grocery bags or reusable cloth bags.

Help us learn more about your current recycling practices and what we should focus on moving forward by completing a short survey. You can scan the QR code or visit us online at [www.barrycountyrecycles.org](http://www.barrycountyrecycles.org) to complete the survey, or you can request a paper copy by emailing [recycle@barrycounty.org](mailto:recycle@barrycounty.org).



*Rachel Frantz serves as Barry County's Recycling Coordinator and writes columns to answer commonly asked recycling questions. Have a question about recycling or a topic idea for this column? We want to hear from you! Email [recycle@barrycounty.org](mailto:recycle@barrycounty.org) or visit [www.barrycountyrecycles.org](http://www.barrycountyrecycles.org) for more information and to get all your recycling questions answered.*