

## GENERAL RECYCLING INFORMATION

Both nationally and internally recycling has become a challenge for our waste disposal companies. Finding places to buy the materials that can be recycled is difficult, especially now that China is no longer willing to take many of the products American have been trained to recycle.

In speaking recently with Nate Austin from Johns Disposal service based in Whitewater, who services communities like the Town of East Troy and some of its neighbors including the Village of East Troy and the Town of Troy; here are some things that can improve recycling and make it easier for the disposal companies.

1. Break down the cardboard boxes. Don't just take your products out of the Amazon boxes or the pharmaceutical boxes and throw them into the recycling. According to Austin, some of the materials used to package the products shipped actually end up contaminating the recyclable materials.
2. Don't put the plastic bags from the grocery store into the recycle cart. YES, these bags and even mailing bags CAN be recycled, but only at places like Pick N Save and Walmart.  
Unfortunately Austin said that the bags get wrapped around the recycling equipment on a DAILY basis and result in a 2-hour shut down every day.
3. Make sure your containers are clean. Rinse the food and soap out of the plastic containers.
4. To make things safer for the employees who are manually sorting the recycling, put broken glass or shredded paper in a CLEAR plastic bag and NOT with other recyclables. (You may have to look on-line for the clear plastic bags.
5. Even though it may be stamped 1 or 2 and look recyclable, STYROFOAM is not recyclable. That includes clean Styrofoam plates that grocery meat is wrapped on!
6. Don't try to recycle things that should go to Goodwill; things like clothing or toys.

Some good questions to ask yourself when recycling are;

1. Is the item clean?
2. Is the item from inside your home?
3. Is the item a closed container?
4. Is the item loose? – this means do not bag the items together.

The most valuable item to recycle is aluminum.

**AND WHEN IN DOUBT THROW IT OUT!**

**As a side note:**

- **Compost yard waste: the Town of East Troy's composite site located on County Hwy L is open every other Saturday from 9 AM – 2 PM.**
- **LED lights, household fluorescent bulbs, dirty diapers and animal waste go in the TRASH bagged.**