



What Goes in the Bin?

At a Glance:

Learn more about the Big 4 and test your knowledge on how to Recycle Right.

You Will Learn:

- 1) How to identify items that can be recycled from those that cannot.
- 2) How to identify recyclables by shape, not by number or symbols.
- 3) How to prepare recyclable items for the bin.

Instructions:

- 1) Review the Background information on Page 2.
- 2) Watch the following videos:
 - a. [How to Recycle Cardboard at Home](#)
 - b. [How to Recycle Plastic at Home](#)
 - c. [How to Recycle Metal at Home](#)
 - d. [How to Recycle Glass at Home](#)
- 3) Complete “What Goes in The Bin Sorting Worksheet” on Page 3.

To Think About:

- What are the “Big 4” materials?
- Why do we only place the “Big 4” in the recycling bin?
- How do you prepare the “Big 4” materials before you put them in the bin?

Feedback:

We would love to hear your feedback! Please help us improve this activity by taking a short, one minute survey ([click here](#)).

Bonus:

Complete all four Recycle Right learning activities to receive a Recycle Right Rock Star certificate. [This is activity #2]

What Goes in the Bin? Background

To keep curbside recycling sustainable in Lancaster County, LCSWMA simplified the recycling process for residents by creating four categories of materials. We call these categories the “Big 4” and they represent types of materials that can easily be separated at the recycling processing facility (also called the “materials recovery facility” or “MRF” for short). The Big 4 also have a strong market for buyers who want to turn this material into new products.

The “Big 4” include the following (only these materials should go into the recycling bin):

1. Corrugated cardboard (like shipping and packing boxes)
2. Plastic bottles and jugs with necks
3. Metal food and beverage cans
4. Glass bottles and jars



What Goes in the Bin? Worksheet

Directions:

Choose where each item belongs by drawing a line to either the recycling bin or trash can.

