



**AMERICAN  
RIVERS**



## Recycling Guide

Much of the trash that is removed during river cleanups is recyclable. Some of the most commonly found items are plastic and glass bottles, plastic bags, and aluminum cans. By recycling these items, we are reducing the amount of waste in landfills, saving energy, conserving natural resources, reducing greenhouse gases, and protecting and sustaining the environment.

- Paper: White papers, envelopes, file folders, newspaper, and cardboard
- Glass: All beverage and food containers—soda, wine, beer, olive oil, etc.
- Metals: Aluminum cans, aluminum foil, tin cans, copper, brass, iron
- Plastic: At the bottom of each container there is a number to describe the type of plastic it is made of.

American Rivers is championing a national effort to protect and restore all rivers, from remote mountain streams to urban waterways. Healthy rivers provide people and nature with clean, abundant water and natural habitat. For 50 years, American Rivers staff, supporters, and partners have shared a common belief: Life Depends on Rivers<sup>SM</sup>.

**Below is a list of common household containers separated by SPI number.**



- PET (SPI=1): clear soda bottles and some bottles containing liquor, liquid cleaners, detergents, and antacids
- HDPE (SPI=2): milk, juice, and water jugs, laundry detergent, fabric softener, and lotion
- PVC (SPI=3): salad dressing, mouthwash, and liquor
- LDPE (SPI=4): grocery bags, bread bags, and trash bags
- Polypropylene (SPI=5): yogurt, shampoo, margarine
- Polystyrene (SPI=6): Styrofoam, plastic cutlery, and clear carry out containers
- Other (SPI=7): plastics made up of any combination of the above types

## What to do with other recyclable items?

- Tires: Check with your local tire retailer to see if they accept and recycle used tires or contact your local solid waste management agency. Bridgestone will collect and recycle used tires for free.
- Batteries: Car batteries can be returned to almost any store that sells them. Dry cell batteries (9-Volt, D, C, AA, AAA) can be collected at a community collection event or at an in-store recycling bin.
- Appliances and Electronics: Manufacturers and retailers offer options to donate or recycle electronics. Visit their store or website to learn about their recycling programs. Best Buy is one retailer that offers free, in-store recycling.
- Cigarette waste, snack packaging, old sneakers, water filters, etc.: For non-recyclable or hard to recycle products, companies like Terra Cycle collect and process waste to turn it into new products, such as bags or park benches.



Questions? Contact the National River Cleanup® Manager at 202-243-7033 or [nrc@americanrivers.org](mailto:nrc@americanrivers.org).

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