

# Coated wrapping paper, bows and boxes aren't recyclable

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Campbell County has one of the most comprehensive recycling programs in Wyoming and resident participation in the program continues to climb every year.

With the holidays here, it's another good time to take a look at new ways to cut back on what gets taken to the landfill.

The main recycling center for Campbell County is the Campbell County transfer station on Westover Road. There are also three large trailers at the parking lots at Don's Supermarket, the Shell Station at Sleepy Hollow and Kmart where you can drop off your recyclables:

## WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED

- Paper products
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Phone books
- School and office papers, all colors.
- Shredded paper
- Corrugated cardboard. This is the kind with the ripples in between the layers. Please break down the boxes if possible. Otherwise the boxes fill the trailers at the drop off sites very quickly, forcing people to leave their recyclables outside in the parking lots and creating a mess.
- Plastics. Two types are taken, those with the number 1 (like pop bottles, water bottles, juice bottles, shampoo bottles, etc.) or the number 2 (like solid colored detergent bottles, milk jugs) on the bottom.
- Glass, all colored, brown and clear glass is accepted. You do not have to separate the colors.
- Cans, all steel and aluminum cans

Most appliances: however, refrigerators and air conditioning units with freon can be recycled but you must pay a processing fee (\$18) to dispose of the freon in them.

Small amounts of household hazardous waste: paint, alkaline batteries, motor oil, etc. These can be taken to the transfer station whenever it is open.

Recyclables can be placed all together in a sturdy, transparent, plastic bag. People can place the bag on their curbside on their garbage pickup day, or take it directly to the landfill or to one of the trailers.

People do not need to use the traditional "blue bags" available at local stores, but they do make it easier for the garbage collectors to know what is recyclable. Be carefull with glass. Use as many bags as you need rather than overfill.

## WHAT CANNOT BE RECYCLED

Pasteboard cardboard — the carboard packaging used for cereal boxes and most packaged food. It accounts for a huge amount of waste, but it's not recyclable here.

Mark Swan, Campbell County's environmental services manager, said that finding a way to recycle pasteboard is one of his highest priorities.

## HOLIDAY RECYCLING

People can generate a lot of garbage during the holidays, but with a little creativity, you can avoid excess trips to the landfill. Not all common holiday leftovers can be recycled, but some can.

### **You can recycle**

Christmas trees, but only if they do not have tinsel, flocking or any other decorations on them. Take them to the Recycling Center at the county transfer station on Westover Road. They will be chipped as mulch.

If they have tinsel or flocking, they must go into the landfill. That requires a fee.

Corrugate cardboard — those with the ripples in them that are used for heavy mailing.

### **You cannot recycle**

AA, AAA or other alkaline batteries, which are considered hazardous waste. Take them to the landfill anytime it is open.

Coated wrapping paper. The coating on most conventional wrapping paper makes it impossible to recycle. This is another good reason to re-use wrapping paper or to use cloth or other reusable/recyclable materials like brown wrapping paper, construction paper or tissue paper to wrap your gifts in. Be creative!

Cardboard wrapping paper tubes. The tubes are a kind of paper called pasteboard that Gillette still cannot recycle. In the meantime, use one as a light saber to fight Darth Vader or as a megaphone to bug your little sister or as a pole for a make-believe tent house. Put a poster gift in one. Then, unfortunately, into the landfill it must go.