

Why should I recycle?

Robert Morris University is committed to a campus-wide recycling program designed to save University resources and reduce the amount of solid waste headed to Pennsylvania landfills. The active participation of every student, faculty and staff member is crucial to the success of the RMU program.



Think before you toss!

If you are not sure whether an item is acceptable or not, be sure to check the list of acceptable items before depositing it in the recycling bin.

What if I have questions?

To obtain information regarding collection locations or acceptable materials or to report an overflowing container, contact the **RMU Operations Center at 412-397-4343**.

What can I recycle?

OFFICE-GRADE PAPER: The process for recycling office grade paper is administered by the **"Students for Environmental Awareness"**, which is a student group from the RMU Science Department. Recycle containers (blue recycle bins) are placed at locations throughout the campus. The bins are monitored and collected by the student group, who transports the materials to an **"ABITIBI"** dumpster that is located in the yard area adjacent to Wayne Center. Members of the campus community can also arrange to drop materials directly to the ABITIBI dumpster. Acceptable materials include:

- computer paper
- office or notebook paper,
- manila paper,
- telephone books,
- shopping catalogs,
- newsprint,
- magazines,
- junk mail,
- shredded paper,
- envelopes.

Not acceptable are plastic or wax-coated papers and pressed cardboard like the backs of paper pads. **Paper should be free of all staples, clips and similar bindings.**

CO-MINGLE WASTE: Co-mingle waste consists of glass bottles and containers, plastic, aluminum, and bi-metal cans.

Containers for the collection of "co-mingle" waste are located at each of the Residence Halls, Nicholson Center and Sewall Center. The large (96 gallon green containers) recycle containers are located outside of these facilities where members of the campus community can dispose of the noted items. The co-mingle materials are collected every other week, which is very similar to the process implemented for the residence of many communities or townships.

Co-mingle materials include the following:

- **Glass Bottles and Containers** = clear and colored glass. Rinse bottles and containers and discard all lids.
- **Aluminum and Bi-Metals Cans** = all aluminum and metal containers. Rinse containers and flatten if desired.
- **Plastics (#1 and #2 only)** = the plastic type or # can be found inside the recycle symbol, which is typically on the bottom of the container. Typically these plastics are used for milk, soft drinks, and detergent containers.

Not acceptable are metal containers not used for food or beverages, light bulbs, laboratory glass, glass shelving, auto glass, dishes, window glass, or other plastic containers not listed.



CORRUGATED

CARDBOARD: Remove any debris or shrink-wrap, flatten the box and place in corrugated cardboard recycling containers which are located at the Nicholson Student Center and Sewall Center.

CONTAMINATION: **Unacceptable items** placed in recycling bins are known as contaminants. Contaminants can be anything from a rubber band to a plastic cup or tissue. Contaminants decrease the quality of the waste stream and create big problems for processors and mills. Items such as plastic bags or Styrofoam cups can cause serious damage to equipment and shut down a mill for days.



Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

Minimize the amount of trash you generate through good use and conservation of materials.

- Reuse materials as much as possible.
- Use double-sided printing and copying.
- Use email instead of paper copies.
- Share magazine subscriptions and save money and reduce waste at the same time.
- Use recycled products made from recycled materials.

As the purchase and use of products made of recycled materials increases, so does the demand for these materials. As the demand increases, opportunities for recycling becomes more available and economical.

Facts & Figures



- In 1999, recycling and composting activities prevented about 64 million tons of material from ending up in landfills and incinerators. Today, this country recycles 32 percent of its waste, a rate that has almost doubled during the past 15 years.
- While recycling has grown in general, recycling of specific materials has grown even more drastically: 50 percent of all paper, 34 percent of all plastic soft drink bottles, 45 percent of all aluminum beer and soft drink cans, 63 percent of all steel packaging, and 67 percent of all major appliances are now recycled.
- Twenty years ago, only one curbside recycling program existed in the United States, which collected several materials at the curb. By 2005, almost 9,000 curbside programs had sprouted up across the nation. As of 2005, about 500 materials recovery facilities had been established to process the collected materials.