

Montreal West recycling

The Montreal West Environmental Action Committee has been arranging tours of the non-profit **SocieteVia** plant in Lachine which sorts our local blue bin recycling. During the November 22, 2024 tour residents made a number of enquiries as to what was and wasn't blue bin recyclable; some of the results are summarized below.

There are three local ways to recycle material: weekly blue bin collection, **Eco-centre Lasalle** (see accepted materials [here](#)), **Fripe-Prix Renaissance** Saint-Jacques (electronics and batteries(?)) 7205 St Jacques. (Batteries can also be dropped off at the Town hall.)

As a general guideline, ONLY **packaging, metal & plastic containers**, and **printed paper & cardboard** should be placed in blue bins. And **nothing smaller than a ping pong ball** which would jam up the machinery. **Materials should be placed separately in the bin**; that is, not inside bags or boxes.

How clean is clean?

Since blasts of air are used to separate plastic containers, it's important that they're not filled with liquids such as left over shampoo, conditioner, detergent, cooking oil, etc. A quick rinse is helpful, but even slightly dirty peanut butter jars have been recycled. No need to scrupulously scrub cans and bottles.

Certain materials that are not recyclable at this sporting plant may be recyclable elsewhere.

NOT BLUE BIN RECYCLABLE

- Metals and plastics other than containers. No iron, aluminum Teflon coated fry pans, metal bars, resin lawn chairs, metal frames, etc.
- Plastic film: grocery produce bags, earth/mulch bags, Costco-type plastic wraps around collections of toilet paper, paper towels, potato chip bags, plastic milk sacks. (Plastic film also tends to gum up the machinery.)
- Wires of any type, Christmas lights, metal coat-hangers (plus, they get tangled up in the machinery)
- Nails, screws, nuts & bolts – too small and would fall out of the cubes of crushed metal containers
- Light bulbs
- Batteries or electronics
- Metallic film wrapping paper
- Cereal box bags
- Water hoses
- Plastic Christmas trees
- Plastic pill containers are too small
- Cardboard crates of fruit with wooden frames covered with plastic netting (rip off the wood & netting)

Items other than cardboard boxes should be probably be no larger than the largest plastic water container (not the trade-in types for water dispensers.) Most things that are not blue bin-recyclable can be taken to the Eco Centre.

Testing our ability to spot recyclables during the tour Marco S, the **SocieteVia** plant manager, held up a plastic ruler. The verdict: not recyclable since it's not a container.

BLUE BIN RECYCLABLE

- All plastic, glass and metal **containers** even with labels attached.
- Newspapers and other printed paper – except metallic wrapping paper.
- Cardboard.
- Kleenex boxes – even with the plastic collar around opening ok (separates out during processing)
- Pizza boxes – even with grease and food particles
- Pringles container – leave the cap on since it's the same plastic
- Peanut butter containers. If plastic leave the lid on.

- Thick plastic covering attached to cardboard backing used for packaging batteries, and some vitamins at Costco, and small valuable items.
- Wine bottles with labels attached. But throw out metal screw tops.
- Leave the plastic caps on milk cartons; if they're separate, they may jam the machinery
- Wax paper
- Aluminum foil – even with food particles, lightly scrunched up into a ball larger than a ping pong ball.

Pending, but likely non-recyclable

toothpaste tubes

plastic netting around onions/avocados

roller/stick deodorant containers

thickly food-crusting paper plates

Chocolate bar & candy wrappers

Plastic fiber grocery bags

??Reusable water bottles (maybe)

The Lasalle Eco-Centre

The following lists of materials accepted and not accepted at the **Lasalle Eco-Centre** (7272 St Patrick off the Lachine canal) was taken from the Ville de Montreal site: <https://montreal.ca/en/how-to/take-items-to-ecocentre-not-profit-organizations>

Acceptable materials

- Clothing that is still in good condition
- Construction, renovation and demolition debris: metal, asphalt shingles, gypsum board, etc.
- Electrical appliances: washing machines, clothes dryers, toasters, etc.
- Refrigerator, freezer, air conditioner, wine cellar/fridge: Only empty residential-type appliances are accepted. Please handle these with care to avoid halocarbon gas leaks (highly toxic to the environment)
- Electronics: TV screens, computers, telephones, etc. (Non-functioning discs, CDs, DVDs and VHS are also accepted but are not recycled).
- Engine oil: leak-proof and closed container of 20 litres maximum
- Fire extinguishers
- Gas-powered car batteries
- Green waste
- Hazardous household waste
- Mattresses and box springs
- Recyclable materials: paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, metal
- Unusable tires that have only been used for residential purposes (eight max. per day)
- Upholstered furniture: sofas, armchairs, chairs.
- Soil (uncontaminated)
- Wood: planks and pieces of wood, natural Christmas trees (undecorated), etc.

Mattresses and other upholstered furniture are accepted at the ecocentre, but are not recycled (except at the Saint-Laurent ecocentre, which recycles mattresses and box springs). Some companies take back used mattresses when you buy a new one, for recycling. Please check with the store.

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Unacceptable materials

Any material not listed as acceptable, and in particular:

- Asbestos: contact an engineered landfill site (dumping site)
- Smoke alarms: throw them away with your household garbage
- Compressed gas cylinders other than propane (insulating foam, welding gas, helium, CO₂ cylinders, etc.): contact a specialized business
- Electric vehicle batteries: Take them to a car dealership
- Biomedical waste: consult a health professional or a CSSS (Centre de santé et de services sociaux)
- Pyrotechnics (fireworks and flares), ammunition and firearms: contact your local police station to make an appointment
- Medication: take it to a pharmacy
- Household waste: use the domestic pickup
- Food waste: use a brown bin or a compost site
- Contaminated earth: contact a specialized company
- Old clothing that can no longer be worn
- Used election posters: Please contact a waste recovery operator
- Stripped cars or motor vehicles such as lawnmowers or all-terrain vehicles: Visit a scrap dealer

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