



The cup is out of the bag. Rumpke now accepts cups!

Recycling FAQ

Rumpke will now accept disposable paper, plastic and aluminum cups in curbside and dropbox programs. Examples of new material that customers can recycle, include paper and plastic beverage cups from fast-food restaurants (Starbucks, McDonalds, etc.), plastic souvenir cups and Ball brand aluminum cups. Continue reading for some frequently asked questions!

Does Rumpke accept cups in its recycling program?

In February 2022, Rumpke announced it will now accept disposable paper, plastic and aluminum cups in its recycling programs.* Styrofoam and polystyrene (#6) cups will not be accepted.

**No cups will be accepted in Central Kentucky where Rumpke partners with LFUCG to process recycling. No paper cups are accepted in Northeast Ohio where Rumpke partners with Waste Management to process recycling.*

What types of cups are not accepted?

Disposable cups made of Styrofoam or polystyrene are not accepted in Rumpke's recycling program. Most colored party cups (i.e., Solo brand cups) are made of polystyrene (#6) and should not be placed in recycling containers. Ceramic and glass cups are also not accepted.

Are lids also accepted?

Plastic lids on plastic cups are accepted. Plastic lids on paper cups are not. Plastic lids on plastic cups should be reattached prior to placing in recycling container.

Why can Rumpke accept paper cups and not paper plates?

Liquid can be emptied from paper cups, but paper plates are contaminated with food waste that can't be removed.

Are small paper cups acceptable?

Rumpke will make every effort to recover small paper cups.

Will straws or stoppers be accepted?

No. Straws and stoppers should be discarded in the trash. This material is much too small to effectively run through the plant.

Why aren't plastic lids on paper cups accepted?

A large number of plastic lids on paper cups are made from polystyrene. Rumpke does not have end users for polystyrene plastic.

Why is Rumpke now able to accept cups?

As a Recycling Leader, Rumpke is constantly working with partners to develop solutions for expanded recycling opportunities. Paper mills have recently pledged to accept paper cups and innovations in plastic recycling have opened up secure, long-term partners for additional types of plastic. Additionally, new technology at the recycling facilities is helping to sort the plastic cups from the stream.

Do the numbers matter on the bottom of plastic containers?

The numbers in the chasing arrows explain the type of plastic used to make the container. It does not necessarily indicate that you can recycle it.

How should cups be prepared for recycling?

Like other material, cups should be clean and empty prior to placing in recycling container. Please remove any straws or stoppers. Plastic lids should be reattached to plastic cups and plastic lids should be removed from paper cups and tossed into the trash.

What new products will the cups become?

Great question! Recycling only works if there is someone willing to turn the item into something new and useful. Aluminum cups will be made into new aluminum cans. Paper cups will be made into new paperboard and cardboard boxes. Plastic cups will be made into new plastic containers.

Visit www.rumpke.com to learn more about what you can recycle and how the process works!



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