

The Gainesville Zero Waste News

8 Types Of Paper That Cannot Be Recycled

Many of the paper products we use daily, such as cardboard boxes and copy paper, are universally accepted for recycling. However, **many other paper products are not recyclable**. These non-recyclable papers are made of a lower-grade fiber or have integrated elements that can't be separated in the milling process. Greasy and food-contaminated papers are also not recyclable as they affect the recycling process at paper mills.

In no particular order, here are the **top 8 types of paper products that cannot be recycled**:

1. Paper cups & plates (including coffee cups)
2. Napkins & facial tissues
3. Toilet paper
4. Paper towels
5. Wax paper
6. Receipts & thermal paper
7. Gift wrapping tissue paper & shiny gift bags
8. Food-contaminated papers (pizza boxes & to-go food containers)



On the bright side, many of these paper products are partly made from recycled paper. So, be sure to look for and buy the products marked “made with recycled paper” when shopping.

To review papers that are accepted for recycling, visit [gainesvillefl.gov/WhatCanBeRecycled](https://www.gainesvillefl.gov/WhatCanBeRecycled).

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