THE "YES AND NO" OF RECYCLING IN WESTERN MASS

YES - emptied, rinsed and unbagged:

Aluminum

- cans
- aluminum foil
- pie pans, "disposable" aluminum trays

Steel (tin) cans

Labels do not need to be removed.

- food and beverage cans (metal lids OK)
- pet food cans (metal lids OK)

Glass

Empty and rinse.
Labels do not need to be removed.

- food and beverage bottles and jars, any color

Plastics

Empty and rinse. Plastic caps may be left on.
ONLY containers smaller than 2.5 gallons are recyclable.

- food bottles, tubs, jars: yogurt, cooking oil, condiments, peanut butter, margarine
- beverage bottles and jugs: water, juice, soda, milk (empty, rinse if possible, put caps back ON)
- soap bottles: dish soap, detergent, hand sanitizer
- personal care bottles: hair products, soaps
- clear plastic clamshells (no black or Styrofoam™)
- clear plastic cups, clear plastic egg cartons

Cartons

Recycle w/containers, not w/paper. Straws go in trash.

- milk and juice cartons (plastic spout OK)
- soymilk, soup and drink boxes (remove straws)

Paper and Cardboard

Clean paper only. Flatten boxes.
"Windows" in envelopes, staples, paper clips, tape all OK

- newspaper, inserts, magazines, junk mail
- white, colored, glossy, and construction paper
- corrugated cardboard
- pizza boxes (empty; grease is OK)
- boxboard (i.e. cereal, pasta, tissue: windows ok)
- gift wrap, gift bags, gift tissue paper, cards (no metallic inks, foil, wire, glitter, batteries)
- paperback books and phonebooks (covers OK)

NO - do not place in municipal recycling:

aerosol cans
siding
scrap metal
foil-wrapped pouches (kids drinks, fruit, baby food)
pots & pans
holiday lights
utensils
tools
batteries

aerosol cans
tanks of any kind
hangers
scrap metal
paint cans
pots & pans
utensils
tools
toys
holiday lights
appliances
pipes
fuel tanks
car parts
batteries

broken glass
holiday lights
wine corks
dishes
drinking glasses
ceramics
baking dishes
cookware (Pyrex)
canning jars
fluorescent light bulbs
incandescent light bulbs
plate glass
windows
eye glasses
vases
mirrors
syringes, sharps

plastic bags
plastic wrap/cling wrap
cellophane food bags (e.g., candy bars, cookies, pasta)
frozen food bags/pouches
liners from food packaging
plastic plates
cups: color or opaque
Styrofoam™ (polystyrene):
- cups/take-out containers
- egg cartons
- packaging, peanuts
- meat trays

small items: straws, loose lids, utensils
black plastic
compostable plastics
cookie trays
blister pack packaging
tubes:
toothpaste, hair care
prescription pill bottles
refillable water bottles
toys
flower pots
holiday lights

containers that held hazardous substances:
automotive products, pool chemicals, pesticides, etc.
containers over 2.5 gallons:
5-gallon pails, buckets, recycling bins, laundry baskets
lawn furniture, swimming pools
tarps
hoses; PVC piping or tubing
CD, DVD, VCR tapes/cases
syringes, sharps
electronics

foil-wrapped pouches (kids drinks, fruit, baby food)
frozen food boxes
ice cream cartons
frozen juice cartons
plastic straws

shredded paper
soda, seltzer, beer cartons
frozen food boxes
ice cream cartons
frozen juice cartons
butter, margarine boxes
paper cups
paper plates
paper egg cartons
take-out containers
paper towels, napkins
tissues

plastic bags, plastic packaging
Tyvek/ bubble wrap envelopes
stickers & sticker sheeting
copy paper wrappers
blueprints
hardcover books

dirtied paper (pet waste, paint)
wet paper, wet cardboard
waxed paper or cardboard
pizza boxes with food or anything inside

For more information: springfieldmrf.org