

Aluminum Recycling Facts

A used aluminum can is recycled and back on the grocery shelf as a new can, in as little as 60 days. That's closed loop recycling at its finest!

Used aluminum beverage cans are the most recycled item in the U.S., by a wide margin. Other types of aluminum, such as siding, gutters, car components, storm window frames, and lawn furniture can also be recycled.

Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours, the equivalent of a half a gallon of gasoline.

More aluminum goes into beverage cans than any other product.

Because so many of them are recycled, aluminum cans account for less than 1% of the U.S. waste stream, according to EPA estimates.

An aluminum can that is thrown away will still be around 500 years from now!

There is no limit to the amount of times an aluminum can be recycled.

We use over 80,000,000,000 aluminum soda cans every year.

At one time, aluminum was more valuable than gold!

A 60-watt light bulb can be run for over a day on the amount of energy saved by recycling a pound of steel. In one year in the United States, the recycling of steel saves enough energy to heat and light 18,000,000 homes!

Paper Recycling Facts

To produce each week's Sunday newspaper, 500,000 trees must be cut down.

The average American uses seven trees a year in paper, wood, and other products made from trees. This amounts to about 2,000,000,000 trees per year.

The amount of wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50,000,000 homes for 20 years.

Approximately 1 billion trees worth of paper are thrown away every year in the U.S.

Americans use 85,000,000 tons of paper a year; about 680 pounds per person.

The average household throws away 13,000 separate pieces of paper each year. Most of this is packaging and junk mail.

In 1993, U.S. paper recovery saved more than 90,000,000 cubic yards of landfill space.

Each ton (2000 pounds) of recycled paper can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4000 kilowatts of energy, and 7000 gallons of water. This represents

hours or a compact fluorescent bulb for 20 hours. It also causes 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than when a new bottle is made from raw materials.

- ❋ A modern glass bottle would take 4000 years or more to decompose even longer if it's in the landfill.
- ❋ Mining and transporting raw materials for glass produces about 385 pounds of waste every ton of glass that is made. If recycled glass is substituted for half of the raw materials, the waste is cut by more than 80%.



Solid Waste and Landfills

- ❋ About one-third of an average dump is made up of packaging material!
- ❋ Every year each American throws out about 1,200 pounds of organic garbage that can be composted.
- ❋ The U.S. is the #1 trash-producing country in the world at 1,609 pounds per person per year. This means that 5% of the world's people generate 40% of the world's waste.
- ❋ The highest point in Hamilton County, Ohio (near Cincinnati) is "Mount Rumpke." It is actually a mountain of trash at the Rumpke sanitary landfill towering 1045 ft. above sea level.
- ❋ The US population discards each year 16,000,000,000 diapers, 1,600,000,000 pens, 2,000,000,000 razor blades, 220,000,000 car tires, and enough aluminum to rebuild the US commercial air fleet four times over.
- ❋ Out of every \$10 spent buying things, \$1 (10%) goes for packaging that is thrown away. Packaging represents about 65% of household trash.
- ❋ On average, it costs \$30 per ton to recycle trash, \$50 to send it to the landfill, and \$6 \$75 to incinerate it.



Miscellaneous Recycling Facts

- ❋ An estimated 80,000,000 Hershey's Kisses are wrapped each year with enough aluminum foil to cover over 50 acres of space that's almost 40 football fields. All that foil is recyclable, but not many people realize it.

