

MPW Total Waste is a leader in comprehensive programs to meet sustainability goals. MPW manages more than 100,000 tons of waste per year for US and Canadian customers. MPW Total Waste recycling programs have been known to save the customer money and even earn money in the form of rebates.

Some commonly overlooked items to recycle can be found below:

- **Cardboard --- Old Corrugated Cardboard (OCC)**
  - Used in boxes, packaging, or other containers is made from un-waxed and unbleached paper, held together with a corrugated or ruffled inner liner. It can be used for everything from packing to displays. Cardboard is one of the materials with the highest recycling rates. Next to lead-batteries, cardboard had the highest recycling percent (96.6%) in 2018.
- **Styrofoam --- Expanded Polystyrene (EPS)**
  - A white plastic foam material produced from solid globules of polystyrene. Its main use is a compliment to cardboard in protecting the packaged product. The foam is used to secure the package while inside the cardboard to avoid any transportation damages as well as to keep it upright and in place. EPS has a low thermal conductivity, moisture absorption, and is lightweight, which makes for its effective padding applications.
- **Soft Plastic --- Low-Density Polyethylene (LDEP #4)**
  - A thermoplastic that is mainly used for plastic wrap, flexible container lids, newspaper wrapping, shrink wrap, grocery bags, and insulation on cables or electric wires. For recycling purposes, LDPE number 4 plastic can be remade into garbage bags or liners, compost bins, shipping bags or envelopes, floor tiles, furniture, sheets or films, and landscape timber.
- **Hard Plastic --- Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS)**
  - Rigid plastic that has heavy resistance to stains, scratches, breakage and is shock absorbent. ABS is used to make keyboards, children's toys (especially Lego blocks), and 3D printing material. It costs less compared to similar trays while offering more durability. Unique to ABS is that the cost in its raw form is generally the same as its usable form.
- **Metal**
  - Scrap metal is a universal term for the industry as well as recycling procedures. For industry, it involves the reuse of components, cogs, or other materials that make up the internals of a machine or structure. Recycling simply involves the reconditioning of those materials that have outlived their life span to be refurbished or remade into similar or other materials. Most notably, recycling metals does not degrade their properties, providing a full circle recycling stream, using recycled metals as raw materials for new products, and offering a lower carbon footprint.
- **Silica Beads**
  - Silica beads or gel are a small porous type of silicon dioxide (silica). Silica is a desiccant, a material that holds water vapor. It can be used to dehumidify substances or containers. Many industries use these beads to keep goods from molding, spoiling, or degrading from humidity. It has also been documented that silica beads can absorb up to 40% of their weight.
- **Paper**

- Used for centuries as a record medium for text or drawings. This can come in the form of printer paper, sticky notes, blueprints, poster board, tissue paper, and formed packaging material. Paper is one of the less stressful materials to recycle, as everything that is ordered, manufactured, or refurbished will have paper in it, on it or about it.
- **Cafeteria Trash**
  - Cafeteria trash consists of the daily disposal of food-related items. This is broken down into post and pre-consumer wastes. Post-consumer waste is food items thrown away after opened or partially consumed. Pre-consumer waste items are thrown away before being served such as packaging from food and other byproducts of food preparation.
- **Pallets**
  - Pallets come in various shapes and sizes and are made from different materials. Pallets are a portable, horizontal, rigid, composite platform used as a base for assembling, storing, stacking, handling, and transporting goods. They are often equipped with a superstructure. This superstructure is an assembly that is connected to the supporting base of the pallet. They can be handled by forklifts, conveyors, or pallet jacks. They are then stored on racks and trailers from 18-wheeler trailers, shipping containers, or warehouse floors. Comes in various materials such as plywood, cardboard, plastic, and wood.

MPW can help to determine which programs are the best for your facility. Contact us today for more information.

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