

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CARTONS

FAQ

WHAT IS A CARTON?

- » Cartons are a type of packaging for food and beverage products you can purchase at the store. They are easy to recognize and are available in two types—shelf-stable and refrigerated.

Shelf-stable cartons (types of products)

- » Juice
- » Milk
- » Soy Milk
- » Soup and broth
- » Wine

You will find these products on the shelves in grocery stores.



Refrigerated (types of products)

- » Milk
- » Juice
- » Cream
- » Egg substitutes

You will find these products in the chilled sections of grocery stores.



WHAT ARE CARTONS MADE FROM?

- » Cartons are mainly made from paper in the form of paperboard, as well as thin layers of polyethylene (plastic) and/or aluminum. Shelf-stable cartons contain on average 74% paper, 22% polyethylene and 4% aluminum. Refrigerated cartons contain about 80% paper and 20% polyethylene.

ARE CARTONS RECYCLABLE?

- » Yes! Cartons are recyclable. In fact, the paper fiber contained in cartons is extremely valuable and useful to make new products.

WHERE CAN I RECYCLE CARTONS?

- » To learn if your community accepts cartons for recycling, please visit RecycleCartons.com or check with your local recycling program.

HOW DO I RECYCLE CARTONS?

- » Simply place the cartons in your recycle bin. If your recycling program collects materials as “single-stream,” you may place your cartons in your bin with all the other recyclables. If your recycling program collects materials as “dual-stream” (paper items together and plastic, metal and glass together), please place cartons with your plastic, metal and glass containers.

WAIT, YOU JUST SAID CARTONS ARE MADE MAINLY FROM PAPER. DON'T I WANT TO PUT THEM WITH OTHER PAPER RECYCLABLES?

- » Good question. The answer is no. Once cartons arrive at your local recycling facility, they will be sorted separately from the rest of the materials. To make this work at the facility, it is easier to modify how containers are sorted than paper. In the end, as long as all cartons are sorted and baled together, the material will then be recycled.