

What's Your Recycling IQ?

The following is a list of questions having to do with recycling. Determine whether the answer is true or false to each question. Some are tricky?

- _____ 1. Plastic grocery bags are not recyclable.
- _____ 2. All parts of a newspaper can be recycled.
- _____ 3. There is no need to wash food residue from aluminum food and beverage containers before recycling.
- _____ 4. Cardboard boxes and newspapers are the two most recycled products.
- _____ 5. Recycled metal has the greatest return and pay rate.
- _____ 6. Aerosol cans are not acceptable for recycling.
- _____ 7. Plastic caps on water bottles can be recycled.
- _____ 8. It is unnecessary to remove tape from cardboard boxes.
- _____ 9. Even if a yogurt container has a little triangle on the bottom, it still can't be recycled.
- _____ 10. In your backyard you can compost fruit rinds, tea bags, grass clippings, coffee grounds, vegetable scraps, and egg shells.
- _____ 11. Recycling plants will compost used paper towels, napkins, and dirty diapers.
- _____ 12. In a landfill, a glass bottle will last one million years.
- _____ 13. The following can be recycled in Salt Lake County (in the curbside blue bins): Pizza boxes, cereal boxes, coat hangers, used tin cans, pots and pans, small household appliances.
- _____ 14. The following can be recycled at DCC/GOED: telephone books, junk mail, white office paper, #1 and #2 plastic, aluminum, newspaper, and most brochures.

Answers to

What's Your Recycling IQ:

1. **FALSE** - Plastic bags can be recycled into lumber (TREX), trash can liners and other plastic bags. The good news: Many grocery stores collect clean, dry plastic bags for recycling and offer canvas tote bags for sale and reuse.
2. **TRUE** - All parts of a newspaper can be recycled, including all inserts and newsprint grade periodicals.
3. **FALSE** - You can recycle aluminum food and beverage containers, including aluminum foil and pie tines, if there is no food residue on them. You don't have to wash your recyclables in the dishwasher. Just make sure they're clean, empty and dry. Dirty products are a waste of time.
4. **TRUE** - The majority of cardboard boxes end their lives in an alley behind a store somewhere - clean and in one place - ready to transport to a paper mill. About 70 percent of newspapers now get recycled - usually into more newspapers.
5. **TRUE** - Metals get great return rates. That's why thieves have put their own twist on the ECO trend - ripping copper out of old buildings and reselling it for hundreds of dollars to scrap yards. Almost 55 million cans are recycled in the US each year, equal to 15 million barrels of foreign crude oil.
6. **FALSE** - SL County accepts empty aerosol cans.
7. **TRUE** - Be sure to remove the caps before recycling. In Salt Lake County, they are more easily separated at the recycling plant for the two plastics to be recycled separately.
8. **FALSE** - It is necessary to remove tape from cardboard boxes. Tape cannot be recycled and contaminates recycled materials.
9. **FALSE** - Most communities in Salt Lake County accept #1-7 plastic.
10. **TRUE** - Allow air into your compost pile by occasional turning. Do not add meat, fish, dairy products, or fat.
11. **FALSE** - Who would work there! Cigarette butts also fall into this category. Remember the clean and dry rules.
12. **TRUE** - In a landfill, glass will last one million years. There are seven drop off locations for glass in SL County. At least one million years! Plastic bags will last 500-1000 years, aluminum cans 80-500 years, and an apple core at 1-2 months.
13. **TRUE** - Check out: www.sanitation.slco.org/html/recycle.html
14. **TRUE** - See Cheryl Brown if you have questions, she's the Queen.