

Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County News

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Is It Recyclable? Let's Talk About Dry Food and Pizza Boxes

Promo Graphic: Attached

Promo Video: <https://youtu.be/sNF9T8DrLIw>

Today, many things are recyclable, but not everything. Let's focus on dry food and pizza boxes.

Dry food boxes, commonly called box board, are the protective cover around any dry food product, drink cans, tissues and other items. Dry food boxes are similar to cardboard in their use. But dry food boxes are one layer, while cardboard is usually three layers.

Be sure to break down dry food boxes, remove any plastic bags or other items, and place them into your yellow recycling bin.

Pizza box disposal requires a deeper explanation. These boxes are made of cardboard, which is recyclable in Palm Beach County's dual-stream recycling program. But it's the cheese and grease on the pizza box that causes issues in the recycling process. When you get a pizza, plan to recycle the box. However, if either the bottom or the top of the box gets soaked in grease and/or cheese, tear one side from the other and recycle the clean side in your yellow recycling bin. The stained side should go into your garbage.

In 2023, more than 30,800 tons of mixed paper was recycled.

The full lists of accepted items in the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County's dual-stream recycling program [can be found online](#).

In 2022, Palm Beach County had the state's highest recycling rate in the state – at 80% – as calculated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Help Palm Beach County remain a top recycler in the state of Florida. Recycle right every day, Palm Beach County. We anticipate the DEP's 2023 results to be posted soon.

REMINDER: Hurricane season started June 1. Now is the time to complete your vegetation trimming. Once a storm threatens, it's too late to trim trees. It's best to make a year-round tree trimming plan a part of your hurricane season preparations to minimize property damage and help our community quickly return to normal after a storm passes.

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About the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County

The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County (SWA or Authority) is a Dependent Special District that was created by the Florida Legislature in 1975. Since then, the SWA has developed an award-winning integrated solid waste management system to handle the county's waste and recyclables. We call ourselves AWAY: whether you throw it, recycle it or flush it AWAY, we put your waste to work. Each year, we:

- Process 100,000 tons of [recyclables](#)

- Combust approximately 1.8 million tons of trash to generate electricity at [renewable energy facilities](#)
- Produce enough electricity to power approximately 90,000 homes
- Recycle more than 130,000 tons of [wastewater treatment residuals](#) (sludge from flushes) into an environmentally-friendly fertilizer amendment
- Safely recycle or dispose of more than 4.6 million pounds of [home hazards](#)
- Collect rainwater from the roofs of [Renewable Energy Facility 2](#) and store it in a 2-million gallon cistern, which is used as part of the energy making process

Anyone can [sign up on the SWA's website](#) to receive SWA news, calendar updates, job announcements or other web postings of interest. Should you sign up online to receive SWA's news releases, we can remove you from the distribution list by sending a reply with the subject "REMOVE" as a reply to this email.

Connect with the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County at [swa.org](#) or on social media:

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most communications to or from the Solid Waste Authority are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.