

Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County News

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Contact: Willie Puz, Public Affairs, 561-640-8914 (o); 561-379-2405 (c)

SWA NEWS: Is It Recyclable? Let's Talk About Aseptic Containers

Promo Graphic: Attached

Promo Video: <https://youtu.be/onBfKXVSa-8>

Today many things are recyclable, but not everything. Let's focus on aseptic cartons and gable-top containers.

Aseptic cartons and gable-top containers are a sterile and shelf-stable way to store non-dairy milk products, wine, soups and other food items. They also hold refrigerated milk and juice products.

Aseptic cartons are made from high-quality paper, an aluminum/plastic combination in some instances, and a thin layer of polyethylene (plastic), not wax, which is recyclable, too. According to the [Carton Council](#), when recycled, the paper is used to make tissues, paper towels and writing paper, or sustainable building materials, such as roofing cover board or wallboard. And the aluminum/plastic combination can be used for generating energy or producing lumber board-like materials.

In Palm Beach County, the blue recycling bin is where aseptic cartons and gable-top containers should be placed, even though the cartons are primarily made from paper. It is not necessary to wash these containers before recycling them. Simply empty out all the liquid and the majority of food residue. You can also keep the caps on the cartons and containers.

To help the [Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County](#) sort and capture aseptic cartons and gable-top containers from the blue bin recycling stream, a robot came online at the recycling facility in late 2022 to focus on sorting out these items and other high-priority plastics. In 2023, the SWA recycled more than 40 tons of aseptic cartons and gable-top containers.

Give your recyclables the future they deserve. Recycle right, Palm Beach County!

Learn more [Recycle Right tips](#).

REMINDER: Hurricane season started June 1. Hurricane season preparations can help minimize property damage and make our communities safer. Once a storm threatens, it's too late to trim trees. So, now is the time to complete major vegetation trimming.

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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.

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