

Creation Care Tips

7 Takeout containers that cannot be recycled

1. **Polystyrene** foam containers, often referred to as "Styrofoam," are widely used for takeout and delivery, so you've likely seen them. Unfortunately, they aren't recyclable and must be thrown out.
2. **Black plastic containers:** These are another popular choice for restaurants and while they are often *made* from recycled materials -- making them at least somewhat eco-friendly -- they can't be recycled and must be tossed. According to Walters, recycling plant sorting technology hasn't yet kept pace with these materials.
3. **Chinese containers and clamshells:** This is another type of container that could, in theory, be recycled, but because oil often seeps into the cardboard, you're better off throwing it away. Also, many are coated with a sealant, making them leak-proof and difficult to recycle.
4. **Oil-stained pizza boxes:** Theoretically, corrugated cardboard can be recycled but not when it's soaked in oil or caked with cheese. Happy medium: Take the top portion of the box if it's free from petroleum and recycle that with your cardboard. The bottom half will likely need to be trashed.
5. **Plastic bags:** Your food is often delivered in plastic bags, but they aren't recyclable and can cause harm to your local recycling facilities. To dispose of plastic bags, return them to the store where you got them or reuse them. Better yet, don't use them at all; instead, request a paper bag.
6. **Plastic utensils:** Not everything made from plastic is recyclable, and the recycling of plastic utensils typically depends on your local facility. Therefore, check with your service provider for details. Even better, when you place your order, let the restaurant know you don't need plastic utensils.
7. **Soiled paper plates and napkins:** These items are not recyclable when soiled with food and liquid, so look for reusable, biodegradable or authentic disposable products instead.

5 Takeout containers that can be recycled

1. **Plastic clamshell containers:** Clear plastic takeout containers with a recycling symbol can be recycled. If it's a plastic container labeled No. 1 or No. 2, you can recycle it and should whenever possible.
2. **Aluminum containers:** You know the ones you can never close as tightly as the restaurant did the first time, no matter how much you pinch? Yeah, those are recyclable as long as they're clean.
3. **Paper or cardboard containers:** These are often made from recycled materials *and* can be recycled themselves. Some are biodegradable and compostable, as long as they are thoroughly cleaned and haven't absorbed much grease. Even ones that aren't recyclable are far less toxic than plastic or Styrofoam when being processed, burned or buried.
4. **Paper bags:** Many restaurants send their orders in large paper bags and those absolutely can and should be recycled or reused. Plastic bags, on the other hand, can't be.
5. **Clean paper products:** Paper plates, napkins, and cardboard pizza boxes that are **not** heavily soiled with grease can generally be recycled.

Recycling of Cans and Bottles

Remember you can bring your returnable cans and bottles to Braford's and ask them to add the deposits to the Christ Church slip. This is a win for CCP and the environment!