

JBSA QRP RECYCLING FAQs

GENERAL

What is recycling?

Recycling is the process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and turning them into new products. Recycling is also a business - with collection, processing, & labor costs – that generates revenues from commodity sales. Recycling can benefit the installation, your community, the economy, and the environment. Make recycling part of your everyday routine and help conserve our valuable natural resources for future generations.

What are the benefits of recycling?

- Conserves natural resources
- Reduces the need for landfills
- Prevents pollution
- Saves energy (versus producing items from raw materials)
- Decreases emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change
- Creates jobs, including here at JBSA
- Helps sustain the environment for future generations

Is recycling mandatory at JBSA?

Yes. In order to achieve the federal recycling goals established by Presidential Executive Order 13990 *Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis*, participation in JBSA's recycling program is mandatory. Furthermore, Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR) Part 246.200 to 246.202 *Source Separation for Material Recovery Guidelines*, sets source separation requirements for Federal agencies as follows:

- a. Facilities with 100 or more office workers must recycle high-grade paper.
- b. Facilities with more than 500 families in residence must recycle used newspaper, excluding privatized military family housing.
- c. If an installation generates 10 or more tons of corrugated container waste per month, the installation must recycle it.

At JBSA, at a minimum, the following items are to be recycled: cardboard, high grade paper (office paper), newspaper, aluminum, tin and steel cans, scrap metal, plastic bottles and jugs (the neck of the bottle is usually smaller than the base with a triangular chasing-arrows symbol #1 and #2 on the bottom), scrap wood pallets, used printer (ink and toner) cartridges, and expended small arms cartridge casings (ESACCs.)

What is a QRP?

A QRP or Qualified Recycling Program is an installation-wide recycling program that is allowed to retain proceeds from sales of recyclable commodities. The revenue generated by the sales is put back into the program to pay for operating costs such as equipment repairs and purchases, supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE) for

recycling center employees, facility improvements, and Operations & Maintenance reimbursements. It is considered “Qualified” if it meets Department of Defense (DOD) requirements to maintain accountability and records of the materials sold or materials diverted (from landfills) and of the proceeds it receives. (If an installation does not have a QRP, all of the proceeds from the sale of recyclable commodities have to go directly to the U.S. Treasury.)

What are the benefits of a QRP?

A QRP allows an installation’s recycling program to be self-supporting by retaining recycling program revenues within certain limitations:

- Revenue generated from the sale of recyclable commodities is put back into the program to cover the costs of the QRP (e.g., maintenance of recycling facilities, the purchase, repair and maintenance of equipment, O&M reimbursement, etc.)
- Once QRP costs are met, up to 50% of the proceeds can be used for environmental programs (e.g., pollution abatement, energy conservation and occupational safety and health activities).
- Any remaining proceeds can be used to pay for Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) activities for the base.
- The more JBSA recycles and recycles properly, the more the installation benefits! It is a win-win for everyone!

What is a “commodity”?

A commodity is a material or product that can be bought or sold. For the QRP, commodities are the recyclable materials collected and offered for sale.

How does recycling work at JBSA’s QRP?

- Source separation at your facility – you place recyclable materials in their correct bins
- Collection by Recycle Center workers
- Paper is shredded and baled, cardboard is baled, plastics #1 & #2 are separated and baled separately, aluminum cans are baled
- Scrap metals are collected in roll-offs and tipsters, sorted by type of metal
- All commodities are sold at the highest price possible based upon the commodity markets
- Proceeds from sales fund the QRP – equipment purchases & repairs; employee PPE (safety boots & glasses, etc.); outreach & education materials; and other operating costs

What materials does the JBSA QRP accept?

- Corrugated cardboard (shipping boxes)
- Paperboard/boxboard (such as cereal boxes)
- High-grade paper (office paper)
- Plastic bottles and jugs ONLY - the neck of the bottle is usually smaller than the base -- look for the triangular chasing arrows symbol with #1 or #2 on the bottom
- Aluminum/tin/steel cans
- Scrap metal

- Scrap appliances (unserviceable appliances in scrap condition) – Refrigerants **MUST** be recovered from refrigerators and air conditioner units, by authorized personnel, prior to bringing to a JBSA recycling center. Also, items with compressors **MUST** be purged of oil before dropping off at a JBSA recycling center.
- Used ink and toner cartridges – Please do not mix used ink and toner cartridges in the same box. Put the used cartridges in the replacement boxes and label the boxes, indicating the type of cartridges to be recycled.
- Scrap wood pallets; wood must be of good quality.
- Expended small arms cartridge casings (ESACCs) - .50 caliber (12.7 millimeter) and smaller

What materials does the JBSA QRP NOT accept?

Items marked with an asterisk () are prohibited at QRPs by DoD, State, and/or Federal laws, rules, and regulations*

- Air filters
- Aircraft tires*
- Any scrap containing precious metals*
- Audio/video tapes
- Automatic data processing equipment owned by the General Services Administration (GSA)*
- Batteries
- Biohazardous/medical waste (including, but not limited, to syringes, sharps, bandages, IV bags and tubing, and contaminated personal protective equipment (PPE))
- Bones, fats, and meat trimmings from a commissary*
- Bottles and jugs containing (or having contained) automotive products (e.g., motor oil, brake fluid, antifreeze, etc.)
- Bottles and jugs containing (or having contained) hazardous material or hazardous waste (e.g., pesticides and herbicides)
- Bowling balls
- Candy wrappers, potato chip and snack bags, fast food wrappers
- CDs, DVDs and their cases
- Cell phones
- Classified documents *
- Compressed gas cylinders
- Computers
- Condiment packets (packets of ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, soy sauce, sugar, sweeteners, etc.)
- Consecrated religious devices*
- Cryptographic equipment*
- Depleted uranium shells*
- Diapers
- “Dirty” paper such as waxed paper, oil-soaked paper, carbon paper, thermal paper, plastic-laminated paper, pet food bags, tissues, paper towels, napkins, and paper plates
- Documents labeled/considered Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)* – please follow your unit’s CUI destruction guidelines or contact the JBSA Information Protection office for guidance
- DoD inspection stamps and equipment*
- Drugs; biological and controlled substances*
- Electrical and electronic components*

- Electronic waste
- Face masks
- Food or food-soiled paper or cardboard / Soiled pizza and doughnut boxes
- Frozen food boxes
- Fuels*
- Glass and ceramics
- Government furnished material*
- Government property furnished to a contractor in performance of a contract*
- Hazardous waste and ozone depleting substances*
- Incendiary products*
- Items subject to U.S. Trade Security Controls:
 - Munitions List Items (MLI)*
 - Commerce Control List Items (CCLI)*
- Lost, abandoned, or unclaimed privately owned personal property*
- Material that can be sold as a usable item; reusable or repairable items*
- Mattresses
- Monitors
- Nitrate-based film*
- Paper-waxed cardboard milk & juice cartons/containers
- Plastic packaging, plastic film, case wrap, plastic grocery/shopping/trash bags, baggies, sheet protectors, bubble wrap, dry cleaning bags, blister packs, and air pillows
- Plastic takeout containers including cups, utensils, straws, bowls, plates, and clamshells (from salads, produce, and sandwiches).
- Plexiglas™
- Powder tubes*
- Propane tanks
- Property owned by a country or international organization*
- Property purchased for the Military Assistance Program or with Foreign Military Sales Administration funds*
- Property purchased with commissary surcharge funds*
- Radioactive substances*
- Reusable ammunition cans and ammunition boxes*
- Rubber gloves
- Sanitary products
- Scrap generated from DBOF (Defense Business Operating Fund) activities*
- Shredded paper (Please place documents in a locked paper cart or take them to one of the three JBSA Recycling Centers for proper shredding. Please do not shred them yourself). IMPORTANT NOTE: The JBSA Recycling Centers DO NOT/CANNOT accept Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) or classified documents.
- Straws and stirrers
- Styrofoam™ (including cups, plates, egg cartons, packing peanuts, clamshells, and trays (for produce, deli, bakery and takeout containers)
- Tanglers (e.g., hoses, rope, light strings, hangers, cords, etc.)
- Tires
- U.S. Coast Guard property*
- Unopened containers of solvent, paint, or oil*

- Usable personal property purchased by Defense Business Operations Fund (DBOF) activities*
- Used motor oil that meets the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) criteria for a hazardous waste*

Why is it important to only put items that can be recycled in the recycling bin?

Putting items in the recycling bin that can't be recycled can contaminate the recycling stream. After these unrecyclable items arrive at recycling centers, they can cause costly damage to the equipment, slow down or stop production, or even cause injury to recycling center personnel.

Why do I need to clean my recyclables?

The cleaner the materials, the more valuable they are to recycling facilities and recycling commodity brokers/buyers. Recycling facilities do not clean recyclables. Leftover food in recyclables can cause odors, grow mold, and attract bacteria, rodents, and insects, which makes the material unacceptable for recycling. Leftover liquids in recyclables can spill onto paper and cardboard, making them unrecyclable. These materials will end up being disposed of in a landfill instead of being recycled. When you empty, clean, and lightly dry your recyclables, you keep food and liquid out of your bin and allow your recyclables to be made into something new.

What do you mean by dry my recyclables?

Once you've emptied, rinsed, and shaken out the water from your recyclables, it's okay if there are some remaining water droplets when you put them in the recycling bin. The important thing is to avoid tossing in quarter-full, half-full, or full bottles of liquid or spilling liquids onto cardboard and paper recyclables, which makes them unrecyclable and puts all of your good efforts to waste. Also, as much as possible, if your recycling cart is outside, please remember to keep it closed to prevent the elements (rain, snow, sleet) from getting everything wet.

For my recyclables, how clean is clean enough?

Recyclables don't have to be dishwasher clean. Just empty/wipe them out, give them a quick rinse, shake off the water, and voila! You are good to go!

Why are certain items not accepted for recycling?

A complex set of factors, based on supply and demand, determine whether an item is accepted for recycling. An item is only accepted for recycling in your community or on base if there is a demand for the recyclable material close enough to your recycling facility to make the process of collecting and processing the material economically sustainable. If there are no brokers/buyers in close proximity that will purchase the material and make a new product out of it, then it is, in practical terms, not recyclable. There may be a company that uses the material to make a new product somewhere in the world, but the transportation costs to get the material to that facility would be cost prohibitive. Therefore, the material would be deemed unrecyclable in our area, but not necessarily in another region.

Is my recycling thrown away?

All empty, clean, and dry, recyclable material received at the JBSA Recycle Centers IS recycled!

The contents of recycling carts containing foods, liquids, sharps (needles, syringes), or other trash will be thrown in the dumpster to avoid contaminating an entire bale of recyclable materials. Foods, liquids, and trash diminish the quality of the materials for sale. Sharps & other biohazardous materials endanger the workforce processing the recyclables; they must be discarded in approved biohazardous waste containers.

What is the difference between single-stream and multi-stream recycling and which of these methods do we use at JBSA?

Single-stream recycling is when all recyclables are collected in a single container; this is sometimes called commingled recycling.

Multi-stream recycling is a collection method in which waste generators (recycling customers) are required to separate recyclables into two or more separate bins – e.g., paper into a bin designated for paper, plastic into a plastics bin, ink and toner cartridges into a bin marked for cartridges, etc.

At JBSA, we implement multi-stream recycling.

What is recycling contamination?

Contamination happens when either

- non-recyclable items are mixed in with recyclable items (e.g., a soiled portion of a pizza box is tossed in with clean corrugated cardboard, or a wooden chair is tossed into a scrap metal container) or
- when recyclable items are placed in the wrong recycling bins (e.g., putting aluminum cans in a bin designated for paper)

If you try to recycle non-recyclable items, they might end up contaminating the rest of the recyclables, resulting in the entire container or entire load of recyclables being thrown away!

Contamination in recycling means:

- Lost value in recycling revenues
- Production downtime
- Equipment repairs
- Higher production costs
- Valuable resources lost from the recycling process
- Potential worker injury
- Increased disposal (landfill) fees

In an ideal world, recyclers want all material to reach them contamination-free. In reality, dealing with contamination in recycling streams is an everyday occurrence, but one we are asking our customers to help us minimize as much as possible. Segregating recycling streams at the point of collection (having customers sort their recyclables at their facilities' designated recycling areas) helps to improve quality.

What is "wish-cycling"?

"Wish-cycling" is the practice of tossing questionable items in the recycling bin, hoping they can somehow be recycled. As much as we all want to be responsible stewards of the environment and recycle everything, many items are not recyclable. In fact, putting the wrong items in a recycling bin (aka "contamination" or "dirty recycling") can ruin otherwise good recyclables, causing them to end up in a landfill. At JBSA, please only recycle

CLEAN, EMPTY and DRY recyclables including aluminum/tin/steel cans, plastic bottles and jugs (plastics with the triangular chasing-arrow symbol on the bottom with either a #1 or #2 in the middle), cardboard, paper (office paper, newspaper), scrap metal, scrap wood pallets, and printer cartridges (ink and toner cartridges). If you're not sure if an item is recyclable, please call one of the JBSA recycle centers for assistance or put it in the trash. Remember, *"When in Doubt, Throw it Out!"*

Who should I call to get a recycling cart?

Contact your Facility Manager (JBSA Facility Managers are the focal points for the JBSA Qualified Recycling Program (QRP) at their respective facilities), or call your JBSA Recycling Center directly at:

JBSA FSH Recycling Center – 210-221-4888

JBSA LAK Recycling Center – 210-671-4800

JBSA RND Recycling Center – 210-889-1282

**When you phone the recycling centers, please wait for the answering service to pick up and leave a voicemail message with your name, phone number, building number, and a brief reason for the call. A recycling team member checks for voicemails and returns calls regularly.*

Where are the recycling centers?

JBSA FSH – B-4203 – 1987 Stock Rd (corner of Mechanic & Stock Rd – access via Jadwin Rd)

JBSA LAK – B-7390 – 2891 Carswell (corner of Carswell & Knight St)

JBSA RND – B-1152 – 11157 Bone Rd (access via East Perimeter Rd)

What are the hours of operation for the recycling centers?

0730 to 1530 Monday thru Friday (closed for lunch 1130 to 1230)

Is my building on a regular pickup schedule / what is the pickup schedule for my recycling bins?

Most locations at JBSA are NOT on a regular pickup schedule. Your Facility Manager or their designee calls the recycle center when the bins are close to being full, and our fabulous recycle center staff swap out the full bins for empty ones as quickly as they can. Please contact your Facility Manager or call your recycle center for questions about your specific building, to have your bins swapped out, or to request additional bins for more recycling.

What organization manages the JBSA Qualified Recycling Program?

The 802d Civil Engineer Squadron manages both the business side and the operations side. The overall responsibility for the program falls under the 802d Civil Engineer Squadron.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

JBSA FSH Recycling Center – 210-221-4888

JBSA LAK Recycling Center – 210-671-4800

JBSA RND Recycling Center – 210-889-1282

QRP Business Manager – 210-671-5371

QRP Business Manager, Alternate – 210-671-5499

QRP Operations Manager – 210-473-7780

QRP Operations Manager, Alternate – 210-782-6784

Your Facility Manager(s) – JBSA Facility Managers are the focal points for the JBSA QRP at their respective facilities.

**When you phone the recycling centers, please wait for the answering service to pick up and leave a voicemail message with your name, phone number, building number, and a brief reason for the call. A recycling team member checks for voicemails and returns calls regularly.*

Does the JBSA QRP have a Facebook page?

Yes! Please feel free to send a message or submit questions to the QRP at <https://www.Facebook.com/qrp.jbsa>. The page regularly offers helpful recycling tips and information.

Does the QRP have an email address?

Yes, it is 802CES.CEIE.Recycling@us.af.mil. Please feel free to contact the QRP with any questions or concerns you may have. We value our customers and enjoy assisting them!

PLASTICS

What plastics can I recycle?

The JBSA QRP accepts only plastic bottles and jugs. Remember to **check the neck, check the shape, and check the number**. In order to keep the recycling stream clean, it is important to follow these requirements when recycling plastics:

- #1 (PET) and #2 (HDPE) plastic bottles and jugs ONLY. Turn over the bottle or jug to see the triangular chasing-arrows symbol with either a 1 or 2 in the middle of it (otherwise known as the Resin ID Code).
- In order to be accepted for recycling, the neck of the bottle or jug should most often be narrower than the base.
- Containers must be empty, clean, rinsed and lightly dried before tossing them into a recycling bin/cart.

Why only plastic bottles and jugs (#1 and #2 plastics)?

China, which had been the largest importer of the world's plastics, stopped importing them and other materials, in 2018, due, in part, to contamination. In response, the world markets for these plastics collapsed and their value greatly decreased. When manufacturers no longer need a type of plastic or are not buying as much plastic, this affects the prices and the JBSA QRP's ability to sell the plastic it has. Now, there are very few buyers and limited options for plastics #3 thru #7. If you try to recycle these plastics, often they will go to the landfill. Also, plastic processing facilities once purchased many types of plastic. Many will now only accept clean, high-value plastics (#1 and #2) like water, soda and soft drink bottles and milk, juice, water, and detergent jugs. Without buyers for plastics #3 and #7, the JBSA QRP and other recyclers cannot sell them to earn revenue. That is why at JBSA, and in jurisdictions throughout the world, recycling centers are urging their customers to only toss plastic bottles and jugs (#1 and #2 plastics) into their recycling bins.

How do I know what type of plastic something is?

Plastics that are recyclable by the QRP will have a recycle symbol on the bottom (a triangular symbol made of chasing-arrows) with a 1 or 2 in the middle; they are usually bottles or jugs. Examples include, but are not limited to, soda bottles, water bottles, juice bottles, sports drink bottles, milk jugs, water jugs, juice jugs, laundry and dish detergent containers, salad dressing bottles, shampoo/conditioner bottles, and liquid body wash bottles. Your

container is usually considered a bottle or jug if the neck or opening is narrower than the base. If the bottom of a container does not have a triangular symbol with 1 or 2 in the middle of it, do not place it in a recycling cart -- Instead, toss it into the garbage. Also, please always remember to only toss items into a recycling receptacle that are empty, clean, and lightly dried.

What's made from recycled plastic bottles?

#1 Plastics (PET/PETE) - Plastic Beverage Bottles - can be made into new bottles, carpeting, backpacks, polar fleece, sleeping bag and ski jacket insulation, to name just a few items.

#2 Plastics (HDPE) – Plastic Milk & Juice Bottles and Plastic Detergent Bottles - can be made plastic lumber for decking, docks, patio chairs, etc., play sets, buckets, containers, Frisbees, stadium seats, countertops, kitchenware (plastic cutting boards, colanders, mixing bowls, tableware, and food storage containers), and more detergent and shampoo bottles, to name just a few.

Do I have to remove the cap, rinse, and flatten plastic?

No, you do not have to remove the cap. In fact, the JBSA QRP would prefer that you leave it attached. But please always remember to empty, clean, rinse, and lightly shake dry your plastic containers before tossing them into a recycling bin or cart.

No, you do not have to flatten the plastic.

Can I recycle plastic syrup, peanut butter, or honey bottles and jugs?

Yes, but make sure they have the triangular chasing-arrows symbol, on the bottom, with a 1 or 2 in the middle of it, and PLEASE clean them out first. Remember, always EMPTY, CLEAN & lightly DRY items before tossing them into a recycling bin.

Does the QRP accept plastic bags and plastic wrap?

No, because they can get entangled and damage recycling equipment, they contaminate bales of recyclables, and the QRP does not have a buyer for the material. Please consider returning them to participating recycling drop-off locations at local retailers such as HEB, Wal-Mart, and Whole Foods or toss them into the garbage. Store drop-offs are usually located near the front of the store. You can visit <https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/> to learn more about recycling plastic film.

Where can I recycle plastic bags?

Plastic bags, plastic packaging, plastic films & wraps, case wraps, bubble wrap, air pillows, baggies, etc. cannot be recycled at JBSA. Please toss them in the trash or consider taking them to recycling drop-offs at stores such as HEB, Wal-Mart, and Whole Foods. Recycling containers are usually located near the front of the store. You can visit <https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/> to learn more about recycling plastic film and find a drop-off location.

Can I recycle plastic takeout cups used for iced drinks?

No, because the plastic disposable cups used for iced and other takeout beverages are generally made from polypropylene (#5 plastic), for which the QRP has no buyers. [Single-use plastics take thousands of years to

decompose, contaminate soil and water and pose hazards to wildlife. Whenever possible, avoid single-use cups and, instead, use reusable cups and thermoses.]

PAPER PRODUCTS & BOXES

What type of cardboard can be recycled?

Corrugated cardboard boxes – boxes made of three different layers, the two outer layers having a smooth surface while the central layer is corrugated (zig-zags between the outer sheets). Please remove all Styrofoam™, plastic, bubble wrap, packing paper, air pillows, and packing peanuts from the box before recycling it. Toss the packing material into the garbage or consider dropping them off at package shipping stores that may accept them for reuse. Flatten boxes for recycling.

Boxboard / chipboard / paperboard boxes – thinner and less durable than corrugated cardboard and used for items such as granola bar boxes and cereal boxes. Again, please remove and discard all internal packaging. Flatten these boxes before placing in cardboard carts or trailers.

Any size, shape or color cardboard can be recycled. Dented, ripped, and damaged cardboard can be recycled. You do not have to remove tape or labels – the recycling process will remove these.

Cardboard packaging can be recycled 5 to 7 times! (Source: American Forest & Paper Association website, www.afandpa.org, July 2022)

Where can I recycle my cardboard boxes on base?

The boxes can be collected once emptied of packing materials, flattened, and placed next to your work center's centralized 96-gallon recycling bins or placed in caged trailers located throughout the base. You can also take them to one of the three JBSA recycling centers.

Do I have to flatten my corrugated cardboard boxes?

Yes, it helps to conserve space in the cardboard recycling trailers and at the JBSA recycling facilities. It also increases the efficiency of processing and baling the cardboard.

Do I need to empty packing material from corrugated cardboard boxes?

Yes, please remove all packing material including Styrofoam™, bubble wrap, plastic bags, packing peanuts, and packing paper and discard them in the garbage. They are not recyclable.

What can be made from recycled cardboard?

More corrugated cardboard, paper bags, paperboard/chipboard (such as cereal boxes), paper towels, tissues, and printing or writing paper.

Do the recycling centers accept or provide boxes for PCS moves?

Yes! The Recycling Centers gladly accept all used moving boxes (flattened and packing materials removed). Some boxes in good condition are held back from recycling and will be provided to military members for PCS moves upon request.

Can I recycle shredded paper?

Please DO NOT shred paper before placing in a recycling cart. Instead, place it in locked paper recycling carts or bring it to the recycling center for proper shredding. The small shreds made by office shredders fall out of the paper bales, create a mess at the recycle centers, and become trash. Important Note: The JBSA QRP does NOT accept classified documents.

What can be made from recycled office paper?

Facial tissue, toilet paper, new computer paper, paper towels, napkins, and new notebook paper.

Can I recycle to-go/takeout coffee cups?

No. Since paper cannot hold liquid, “to-go” or takeout coffee cups are lined with polyethylene, a plastic that functions as a moisture barrier. The lining must be separated from the cup before the paper portion can be recycled. The process is both complex and expensive; so, these cups cannot be recycled. Instead, they should be tossed into the trash. When people erroneously place the coffee cups into their recycling bins, it contaminates the higher value plastic or paper that can be recycled.

Can I recycle TetraPaks and cartons?

Not at JBSA. These food and drink containers are composed of multiple layers of paperboard, foil, and plastic that are difficult to separate. As a result, they are hard to recycle because only the paperboard can be recycled. Although these items can technically be recycled (or at least, the paperboard component can), many recycling facilities will not accept them for recycling because it is a complex and expensive process.

Can I recycle colored paper, at JBSA?

Yes

Can I recycle newspaper, at JBSA?

Yes

Are newspaper inserts such as store flyers accepted for recycling?

Yes

Can I recycle magazines?

Yes

Can I put envelopes in the paper bin?

Yes. However, if they have a plastic window, please remove the plastic portion and toss it in the trash, and put the paper portion in the designated bin for office paper.

Does the QRP accept books?

Yes. For paperback books, you can recycle the book whole, including the binding. For hardcover books, please remove and toss the cover into the garbage because it contains non-paper components such as thread, plastic, and

glue; then, toss the paper portion in the recycling bin. You can also donate your gently used books to your local library.

Why can't wet books and magazines be recycled?

Even though the paper recycling process introduces water, when you get paper wet and it dries, it manipulates the fibers (as a result, it feels stiffer). Paper mills also don't want to pay for wet paper because it's heavier with the extra water weight.

Why aren't napkins, paper towels, tissues or paper plates accepted for recycling?

Because these items usually come into contact with food wastes, greases, oils, and possibly bodily fluids, they are not able to be "cleaned" during the recycling process and should not be included with other "clean" paper waste such as office paper and magazines. Always throw these items into the trash.

Also, soft paper products such as napkins, paper towels, and tissues don't meet the quality standards necessary to turn them into new products. Soft paper products are usually made from a high percentage of recycled paper, and each time natural fibers are recycled, they become shorter and shorter. After 5-7 times through the recycling process, paper fibers are too short to be recycled again. Consider avoiding soft paper products entirely with reusable options such as cloth napkins and hand towels whenever possible.

Can gift wrap be recycled?

Yes, unless it is metallic, has glitter, or has velvety flocking on it.

Can candy wrappers, potato chip bags, and snack bags be recycled?

No, because they are made of a mix of materials like plastics and aluminum. Recycling mixed materials like candy wrappers, potato chip bags, and snack wrappers are simply too labor-intensive and expensive to be worth it. They are also often too small. If you'd like to be more eco-friendly, use specialty recycling services that focus on recycling "un-recyclable" materials. One such organization is Terra Cycle. Terra Cycle offers what they call a zero-waste box you can use to send them candy wrappers, snack bags, and other mixed materials. While the service does come at a price, it's a reliable, flexible, and environmentally conscious way to dispose of candy wrappers, snack wrappers, and potato chip bags. Another option is to buy candy in bulk. It is one of the best and easiest ways to cut down on packaging.

How many natural resources are conserved by recycling one ton of paper?

Each ton of paper recycled saves 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 380 gallons of oil, 17 trees, 4,000 kilowatts of energy, and 7,000 gallons of water.

SCRAP METALS & APPLIANCES

What is scrap metal / when is metal considered scrap?

Scrap metal consists of recyclable metal materials left over from product manufacturing and consumption, such as building supplies and surplus project materials; metal items that have been damaged; and metal items that have reached the end of their useful life. Scrap metal is comprised of used metals that are an important source of

industrial metals and alloys, particularly in the production of steel, copper, lead, aluminum, and zinc. Smaller amounts of tin, nickel, magnesium, and other metals are also recovered from scrap. Unlike other types of waste, scrap metal has considerable monetary value.

(Notes: DoD Qualified Recycling Programs are **NOT** permitted to accept or recycle precious metals such as gold, silver, and platinum; items containing these metals **MUST** be turned in to the Defense Logistics Agency Distribution Services (DLADS) Office. Also, any items that may be used, reused, or repaired for their original purpose **MUST** be turned in to the DLADS Office. Please contact DLADS at (210) 221-4927 for more information.)

What appliances does the QRP accept?

Scrap (unusable or unserviceable) large and small appliances. Note: Items with compressors **MUST** be purged of oil before dropping off for recycling. Refrigerators and AC units **MUST** be drained free of refrigerants by authorized personnel prior to bringing to a JBSA recycling center. Call the recycling center or QRP manager for a list of HVAC contacts for refrigerant removal. Please call ahead to coordinate heavy drop-offs requiring forklift use:

- JBSA FSH – (210) 221-4888
- JBSA LAK – (210) 671-4800
- JBSA RND – (210) 889-1282

BOTTLES & CANS

What types of cans are accepted?

Aluminum, tin, and steel cans. They must be EMPTY, CLEAN, and DRY before tossing them into a recycling bin/cart or dropping them off at one of the JBSA recycling centers. If they have food or liquid residue in them, just empty them, give them a quick rinse (or wipe), and lightly shake them dry.

What's made from recycled aluminum cans?

Aluminum cans are among the materials most often collected for recycling and one of the easiest to process. Recycling aluminum does not reduce the quality of the metal, so it can be recycled indefinitely. They can be recycled into a lot of different products such as tractor trailer and car bodies, rain gutters, and window frames; however, most aluminum cans usually become new aluminum cans. With a constant demand for aluminum cans, manufacturers can have an aluminum can back on store shelves as a new can in as little as 60 days from being recycled. Producing new cans from recycled aluminum saves 95% of the energy used to produce cans from ore, known as bauxite.

What products are made from recycled steel/tin cans?

“Tin” cans are actually steel cans coated in a thin layer of tin. The tin and steel are separated during the recycling process. All steel contains recycled steel. Recycled steel/tin cans can be made into bike parts, car parts, steel beams, rebar, appliances, and new cans.

What types of bottles are accepted?

Glass bottles are **NOT** accepted. The JBSA Qualified Recycling Program only accepts plastic bottles and jugs. Your plastic container is usually considered a bottle or jug if the neck or opening is narrower than the base. At the

bottom of the bottle or jug, there should be a triangular chasing-arrows recycling symbol on it with either a #1 (PET) or #2 (HDPE) in the middle.

ELECTRONICS

Where can I recycle electronics?

Government Purchased/Owned/Furnished Electronics:

All government purchased/owned/furnished electronics **MUST** be turned in to the Defense Logistics Agency Distribution Services (DLADS) Office (formerly DRMO). Please contact DLADS at (210) 221-4927 for more information.

Household Electronics:

Texas law requires television and computer-equipment manufacturers to offer recycling opportunities to consumers for these electronics. Under the Computer Recycling and TV Recycling programs, households have two options to recycle electronics.

- Go to [TexasRecyclesComputers.org](https://www.texasrecyclescomputers.org) to find out how to recycle your computer for free.
- Go to [TexasRecyclesTVs.org](https://www.texasrecyclestv.org) to find out options for recycling your television.

Additional resources for recycling your household electronics:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) encourages Texans to consider additional recycling options for household electronics not covered under the Computer Recycling and TV Recycling programs.

- Visit [greenergadgets.org](https://www.greenergadgets.org) to learn more about recycling electronics and find a recycler in your area.
- The EPA provides resources to donate or recycle your old electronics at <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/electronics-donation-and-recycling>

OTHER ITEMS/MISCELLANEOUS INFO

Does the QRP take furniture?

The QRP only accepts **metal** furniture that is no longer usable or cannot be repaired and can be sold as scrap metal. All government-owned/government-purchased furniture, electronics, used vehicles, weapons system parts, vehicle/machine parts, uniforms, etc. that may be used, reused, or repaired for the original purpose **MUST** be turned in to the Defense Logistics Agency Distribution Services (DLADS, formerly DRMO) Office. Please contact DLADS at (210) 221-4927 for more information.

The QRP has no buyers for primarily **plastic** or primarily **wood** furniture, so these items are not accepted. Please contact your installation's Solid Waste Contractor Officer Representative (COR) for information on proper disposal of these items; they should **NOT** be placed in or around dumpsters on base unless approved by the Solid Waste COR.

Is glass accepted?

No, because it is not currently cost-effective. The distance from JBSA to the nearest glass recycling markets is considerable. The cost to ship the glass to market is more than the QRP would receive for payment.

Are pizza boxes accepted?

Yes, but ONLY if free of food remnants, oil, and grease. Grease and food waste can damage recycling equipment, contaminate other recyclables, or attract vermin. If one part is greasy or has food residue on it, separate that part from the clean portion and throw the dirty portion in the garbage. The part that is clean can be recycled. The same applies to doughnut boxes.

Are frozen food boxes accepted?

No, please toss them in the trash, not in your recycling bin. The shiny exterior coating (aka polycoat) that prevents freezer burn prevents the container from being recyclable. Most recycling services reject these boxes to avoid contaminating their pulp supply.

Is Styrofoam™ (aka polystyrene) accepted?

Not at JBSA. Styrofoam™ or polystyrene blocks and containers (cups, bowls, clamshells, packing peanuts, items with the chasing-arrows symbol #6, etc.) are not recyclable at JBSA. The cost to ship this lightweight material to markets is far greater than any revenue the QRP would receive. [They also don't biodegrade in landfills and take 500 years or more to decompose. Many restaurants and retailers have moved away from using this type of packaging, which is helping, but we can always do better. Think about doing the same by investing in a reusable cup, mug, thermos, bowl, or food container.]

What do I do with construction, renovation, and demolition waste (aka C&D debris)?

Disposition of **scrap metals and other recyclable materials** should be coordinated through a JBSA Recycle Center and the 802 CES/CEN Project Manager (PM) & 502 CES/CEO Contract Officer Representative (COR) for the project.

ALL construction, renovation & demolition wastes generated on base and leaving base **MUST** be properly sampled/tested and manifested, with manifests signed only by authorized JBSA Environmental (802 CES/CEIE) personnel, in accordance with the JBSA Environmental Specifications. For more information, call your 802 CES/CEN PM, 502 CES/CEO COR, or the Environmental Element at: JBSA Lackland – (210) 671-4844; JBSA Randolph – (210) 652-4668; or JBSA Sam Houston – (210) 221-1142.