

BIG NEWS: Paper Cups Are Now Accepted in Recycling!

Empty paper cups, such as coffee cups, may now be included in household recycling! This includes all paper cups: coffee cups, fountain drink cups, bathroom cups, and compostable cups. Paper hot drink sleeves are also recyclable. Please rinse residual food from cups. Related lids and straws belong in the trash. In communities that collect recyclable paper separately from bottles and cans (dual stream recycling), empty paper cups can now join your pizza boxes in the paper bin.

The RecycleSmart Team at MassDEP gives us the scoop on this big news:

So, what changed? Technology! Paper cups are made of long, valuable fibers (80-95% of the cup), with a plastic interior lining made of polyethylene (and sometimes polylactic acid) that provides insulation and helps prevent leaks. Previously, that lining – often called a poly coat – was very difficult to filter out at paper mills and was considered a contaminant. But with new technology, mills can now separate the lining from those valuable fibers.

Finish Your Sip and Recycle It

Paper cups moving to the YES list is a big deal here in Massachusetts. Think about it: We've got coffee shops across the street from coffee shops (IYKYK), which means a LOT of cups.

Now, **we always encourage reuse**, but if you happen to forget your reusable travel mug, don't fret. Enjoy your drink and then recycle your empty cup!

Breaking News:

Paper Cups Are Now Recyclable!



Recycle empty paper cups.

Lids, straws, and foam cups still go in the trash.

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