

Transition to EPR curbside recycling

Materials accepted in the recycling bin



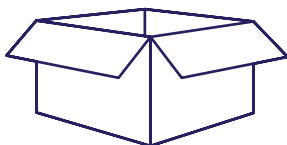
Announced in February 2020, the ongoing **modernization of curbside recycling** will see the transition of the system's control and management to the companies who market containers, packaging, printed matter and newspapers (C, P, PM & N) in Quebec. The transition to the new model, which is based on an extended producer responsibility (EPR) approach, will be carried out from 2022 to 2024 and fully deployed in 2025. One of the mandates of working groups set up by the Government of Quebec dedicated to the modernization project and led by Éco Entreprises Québec was to produce a standardized list of materials accepted in Quebecers' recycling bins during the transition period in order to enhance communication with citizens to ensure good sorting habits and improve the quality of the materials collected.

Thus, only materials designated under EPR will be accepted, i.e. C, P, PM & N:

Containers



Packaging



Printed matter



Newspapers



C, P, PM & N accepted across the entire Quebec territory

Fibers (paper and cardboard)

Cardboard boxes (laminated, corrugated, boxboard)

Egg cartons

Cardboard rolls

Newspapers, circulars/flyers, magazines, catalogs, telephone books

Sheets, envelopes, paper bags, paper with heavy ink coverage (e.g. posters, non-metallized wrapping paper)

Small gable-top containers (milk / juice containers)

Aseptic containers (e.g. "Tetra Pak" type containers)

Plastic

Bottles, containers and packaging of food products, beverages, cosmetics, personal hygiene and household cleaning products identified using one of the following symbols:

♻️ 1 PET ♻️ 2 PEHD ♻️ 4 PEBD ♻️ 5 PP

Metal

Aluminum plates and foil

Food cans

Aluminum cans

Metal clothes hangers

Glass

Bottles, jars (regardless of colour)





Materials refused across the entire Quebec territory

All materials other than designated C, P, PM & N, are prohibited. Here are a few examples:

- Products covered under another recovery program:
 - Fluorescent tubes and mercury bulbs
 - Empty paint cans
 - Empty used oil containers
 - Electronic products
 - Batteries
- Wood / Building materials
- Furniture
- Textiles: clothing, linens, etc.
- Books
- Toys
- Small household appliances
- Pots and pans
- Ceramic items: dishes/china, trinkets, etc.
- Drinking glasses
- Light bulbs
- Flat glass: window/door panes, other such glass
- Mirrors



Materials requiring special attention on the part of the designated management organization during the transition period.

This category includes hard-to-recycle materials or for which the best collection method remains to be defined. These materials are currently not accepted by all material recovery facilities (issues with processing capability in MRFs and/or market development).

- Plastics**
 - #5 PP capsules (coffee, tea)
 - #6 PS capsules (coffee, tea)
 - Stand-up pouches
 - Plastic bags
 - Plastic wrapping film (e.g. toilet paper wrapping, paper towel wrapping, etc.)
 - Stretchable film (food wrapping film)
 - #1 thermoformed PET (e.g. food trays)
 - Agricultural plastics (containers and films)
 - Degradable plastics (oxodegradable, biodegradable, compostable, PLA)
 - PVC
 - Expanded PS (food-grade or protective styrofoam);
- non-expanded PS
 - Other
- Metal**
 - Nespresso capsules in a green bag meant for recycling
 - Empty aerosol containers
- Fibers (paper and cardboard)**
 - Waxed cardboard boxes
 - Cardboard containers with metal or plastic bottom and lid (e.g. frozen juice cans or Pringles-type chip cans)
 - Laminated paper (e.g. coffee bags, cookie bags)

It is recommended to maintain the status quo in your municipality for this class of materials. Changing instructions to citizens between the transition phase and the implementation of EPR for curbside recycling could potentially create confusion.

Notes to municipal managers:

1. This list is intended for municipal managers responsible for developing calls for tender specifications. Its use may have to be adapted based on target audiences and according to communication requirements. It will be updated ahead of the entry into force of EPR and will certainly evolve over time. Indeed, the collection method for these materials, as well as required sorting, processing and recycling technologies might change.
2. Considering the context of the transition to EPR, as well as the rapid evolution of materials being marketed, when writing specifications, it is preferable to avoid including a precise and comprehensive list of materials that the MRF will have to process. This clause should generally target **containers, packaging, printed matter and newspaper** that are collected via curbside recycling and made of **cardboard, paper, plastic, glass and metals**. A recommended good practice is to provide as much information as possible to bidders by specifying, among other things, the origin of recyclable materials, as the case may be (residential, ICIs¹, away-from-home, special event collections).

Tips and tricks:

Fill up a bag of bags

Soft plastics like plastic bags, are made of a very volatile material. We recommend placing all your recyclable bags in a single tied bag, which will also facilitate the process once it's in the sorting centre or MRF.

Leave lids on containers

Due to their small size, caps often cause problems during sorting operations. We recommend not removing lids from containers and bottles.

Make aluminum balls

Aluminum is one of the most easily recyclable materials! Even if the plate has been used to cook food, it can be placed in the recycling bin. Wrap any food residues left on aluminum foil into a ball and place it in the recycling bin.

