

UPCYCLE IT! Frequently Asked Questions

The most important things to know about Upcycle It!

Forget everything you know about recycling. To determine what is accepted, what was in the bag or wrapper is more important than the material it is made from. TerraCycle has corporate sponsors for each brigade. For example, Frito-Lay sponsors the Chip brigade. They are willing to pay for any product similar to their own. So if you can find it in the chip aisle of the grocery store, it is considered a chip bag. Same goes for other brigades.

Terracycle collects over 40 different items. Local groups, like Upcycle It!, choose which items they will collect. We can only accept the items we have signed up for. So even though TerraCycle has a cheese packaging and cigarette waste brigade, Upcycle It! cannot accept those items because we have chosen not to sign up for those brigades.

1) What is a Brigade?

A Brigade is a waste stream that Terracycle collects. Upcycle It! is signed up for 7 of the brigades which means we can collect and get paid only for those 7 brigades. We will be looking to expand to include more brigades. Take a look at Terracycle's brigades (<http://www.terracycle.net/brigades>) and please let us know which ones you would like to see collected.

2) Do I need to separate my Upcycle It! items into the different brigades?

Toothbrushes and drink pouches should be placed in separate bags – separate from each other as well. All others can be placed into a bag, box, largest chip bag, bread bag, whatever you have and bring it to a drop off location. You can leave your items in the bag. It actually makes pickup easier and we will recycle the bag!

3) Why did Upcycle It! stop accepting coffee bags, cookie wrappers or corks?

We were informed by TerraCycle that the corporate sponsors for these brigades, decided not to continue the program. Without a sponsor, someone paying the 2 cents and the shipping, these items can no longer be collected.

4) Will Upcycle It! accept ANYTHING with a foil liner?

NO. It must fit into one of the brigade categories. So it must be some sort of energy or breakfast type bar, candy, chip bag, etc to be accepted. So, the wrapper to an ink cartridge or a Crystal Light package is not acceptable. When in doubt, email upcycleit@SustainableWestford.org or stop by the market. We check everything and will update as necessary. Please check back so you know next time.

5) Which wrappers and packages are NOT accepted?

These are some common mistakes. The following are **NOT** accepted.

Coffee Bags

Cookie wrappers
Wine corks
Bread Bags
Frozen Food bags
Pet Food bags
Cereal Bags
Gum packaging
Peanut butter or cheese cracker sandwiches
Craisins – small foil ones
Entemen’s Little Bites
Ramen noodles
Ink cartridge wrapper
Bottle labels
Any unlabeled packaging
Cheese stick wrapper
Cheese singles wrappers
Shredded Cheese bag
Hershey’s Kiss wrapper – **can be curbside recycled**
Paper-like Hershey’s miniature wrapper
Goldfish cracker bag w/ paper outer layer
Juice Boxes – cardboard type
Milk cartons – Silk or Horizon Organics type
Crystal Light
Pop Tart wrapper
Mylar balloons
Saran wrap
Ice cream novelty or popsicle wrappers
Pasta bags
Fruit by the foot or other fruit rollup type snack
Welch’s Fruit Snacks or any other brand of fruit snack
Nuts
Pringles can
Dried fruit bags
Foil yogurt tops – **can be curbside recycled**
Plastic containers – **can be curbside recycled**
Flower pots – **can be curbside recycled**
Crest White Strips
Crayons
Wooden pencils
Aluminum toothpaste tube (Tom’s of Maine)

6) Will you accept the foil Hershey’s kiss wrappers?

No. These are aluminum foil and can be curbside recycled in Westford.

7) Will you accept the juice box type containers like Mott’s?

No. TerraCycle only accepts the foil type pouches like Capri Sun and Honest Kids. Juice boxes are cardboard and can be curbside recycled in Westford.

8) Will you accept plastic zip top type bags like those for shredded cheese?

No. Even though TerraCycle has a cheese brigade, Upcycle IT! is not participating so we cannot accept this type of packaging.

9) Does Upcycle It! accept any type of crinkly plastic?

NO. The item must fit into one of the brigade types. So, the packaging of Ramen Noodles is NOT accepted. However, any sort of salty snack (chips, pretzels, popcorn, tortilla chip, pita chip...), anything you find in the chip/snack aisle at the grocery store does fit with the Chip brigade, if it held ANY kind of candy it can go with the candy brigade and so on. Again, when in doubt, **info@westfordfarmersmarket.com** or stop by the market. Please check back so you know next time. See the list below for more information.

10) What condition do the items need to be in?

For the wrapper and bag items, they can be ripped. If they are ripped, please include all pieces. They should be relatively clean, but no need to scrub them. Just empty the crumbs. Please follow the cleaning instructions for the drink pouches – <http://www.westfordfarmersmarket.com/documents/UpcycleIt.pdf>

11) What should I do if I'm not sure about an item?

Email **upcycleit@SustainableWestford.org** or stop by the market and ask We always go through each bag to sort it. If we are not sure either, we can ask Terracycle. Please check these FAQs every so often as they will updated.

12) Is it true that we can now include the straws from the drink pouches?

YES. Terracycle now accepts the straw from your drink pouch. **Only** these straws. Please continue to get all the juice out of the pouch.