

## What not to put in recycling container

Courtesy of Lincoln Journal Star

Though many local curbside recyclers will take almost everything, here's a list of things likely to end up in the landfill anyway.

**Plastic bags:** Most recyclers suggest that people not throw those flimsy plastic bags into the recycling container because they gum up the equipment.

**Cardboard pizza boxes soaked in oil:** Most pizza boxes are fine, but if they are oil soaked tear off the lid and put in the recycle bin.

**Tiny plastic containers:** Those individual cups used to make coffee these days get sorted into the landfill pile at most recycling sorting operations because they are so small. If you want them to be recycled, stuff them into a bigger plastic container like a detergent bottle.

**Glass:** Glass has never been worth much and is usually sorted out of recycled material and sent to the landfill.

Omaha, which has a city funded curbside recycling, won't accept glass. And broken glass contaminates the rest of the material. It is harsh on equipment used in sorting recycling material, gets into conveyor belts and bailers, said Dale Gubbles, president of Firststar Fiber, Inc.

A national study of recycling sorting centers concluded that 40 percent of glass ends going out as trash, and the majority of the rest goes to land fill to be used as daily cover, instead of dirt.

Lincoln's drop off program accepts glass, which is taken to Kansas City to be made into fiber glass insulation and beer bottles. But the city must pay to have it collected and sorted.