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Title: More helpful recycling tips  
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I love my job, especially the feedback I receive from residents. It's a good feeling for me to be recognized around the community. It also gives me a good feeling to know that people read my columns regularly. I love having the opportunity to provide information about recycling, and ways we can all contribute to producing less waste. And (if I'm lucky) I am helping people start recycling, recycle more things, or recycle better!

The friendly woman who works at Aunt Millie's recently said to me, "Hey, I saw you in the paper. No wonder you always tell me you don't want a bag!" Of course, if you need a bag for your purchases, you can always bring your own; I keep mine in my car. I was also recently at Kroger's Deli, and decided to ask if I could bring my own containers. I presented the question to Store Manager, Carrie Miller, who did some checking for me. She informed me that Kroger will allow people to bring clean containers with lids from home for purchase of deli meats and cheeses. That is wonderful news! If other stores would like to follow suit, please let me know and I will inform residents.

Here's a popular question: Should I wash my recyclables before putting them in my bin? The answer is, maybe. The cleaner an item, the more valuable it is. However, I personally do not recommend putting glass jars or metal cans you intend to recycle in the dishwasher or in the dishwasher! It is not necessary to get your recycling as clean as your dishes; this is a waste of water and soap. What I have found at home to be effective is the "shaker method." A spaghetti sauce jar isn't necessarily clean enough for recycling without doing *something* to it first. Run a little water in the bottom of the jar, put the lid on, and shake for a few seconds. Sure, it's not perfectly clean, but with minimal resources the spaghetti jar (and lid) is ready for recycling!

Just a reminder, those of you who live in single family residential homes the City of Mt Pleasant have curbside recycling services: curbside drivers Geoff Isenhath is accompanied by Kenny Hiffner on Mondays, Lee Fisher drives Tuesday through Thursday. Geoff and Lee have been collecting the City of Mt. Pleasant recycling for 7 years this March! MMI's Brad Bacome also collects Mt. Pleasant curbside recycling on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and is assisted by MMI crew members Kay Naumes, Jeff Johnston, and Scott Spangler.

Isabella County Recycling Center curbside driver Charity Dear picks up your curbside recycling if you live in the Townships of Deerfield, Rolland and Lincoln, the Village of Lake Isabella, and for those living on Saginaw Chippewa Tribe trust land. Recycling roll-off containers are also maintained by Supervisor Bruce Chapman on the campus of Central Michigan University, and the following Depot locations: Blanchard: on Blanchard Road at the old County garage; Broomfield: NE corner of Rolland Road and M-20; Fremont Township/Winn Village: Blanchard Road at the Winn Community Building; Rosebush: Isabella Township Park at the end of Locust; Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Operations: 2591 S Leaton Rd, Mt Pleasant; Shepherd: 208 W Boulevard DPW (and there is a cardboard and bagged office paper container in the downtown municipal parking lot); Weidman: Main St at the old Fire Hall.

Please remember to "be nice" to curbside drivers. Their routes are long and cold these days, and there are a few things you can do to makes their lives just a little easier. If you put your bin out the night before, please cover to keep the snow out. Trash bags used for this purpose will be left behind with your bin. We also have bin covers available at the Recycling Center for \$1.00 each. Also, try to put the following things together in your curbside recycling bin: • newspapers, magazines, catalogs, phone books • boxboard, cardboard, brown bags • office paper (tied in a clear or white translucent bag only) • aluminum, tin/steel, clear or brown glass, all plastic bottles or jugs or jars (as long as the opening is smaller than the rest of the container). • In addition, please remember that the following items are not accepted: pizza boxes, pop/beer boxes and Styrofoam.

Additional items can be brought to the Recycling Center: yard waste, used motor oil/filters and antifreeze, batteries, books and tires. There is a fee for some items, please call 989-773-9631 or consult our recycling guide at [www.isabellacounty.org/recycles](http://www.isabellacounty.org/recycles). Please let me know if you would like to request a copy of

my new quarterly newsletter. If you recycle with us, and would like to avoid registering at the office, ask about our Quicker with Sticker program. Happy Recycling!

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