

Republic Services Consumer Recycling Survey

SEPTEMBER 2022



How would you describe yourself when it comes to recycling?

- 54% I am good at recycling but could learn a little more.
- 21% I am not very good at recycling and could learn a lot more.
- 19% I'm an expert recycler.
- 6% I'm not sure what can and cannot be recycled at all.

Which of the following materials can be recycled in your curbside bin?

- 69% Cardboard
- 68% Paper
- 61% Flexible plastic
- 60% Aluminum
- 59% Hard plastic
- 23% Styrofoam™
- 10% None of the above

How confident are you when it comes to knowing what types of plastics are recyclable?

- 41% Somewhat confident
- 23% Very confident
- 20% Neither confident nor unconfident
- 8% Somewhat unconfident
- 8% Very unconfident

Which of the following items can be recycled in your curbside bin?

- 63% Milk jugs
- 59% Metal Cans
- 56% Milk cartons
- 47% Yogurt and butter tubs
- 45% Junk mail
- 44% Bleach and laundry detergent containers
- 41% Plastic grocery bags
- 38% Plastic cutlery
- 34% Straws
- 34% Paper towels or napkins
- 30% Bubble wrap
- 21% Styrofoam™
- 11% None of the above

Which of the following items do you consistently recycle?

- 62% Plastic water bottles
- 60% Aluminum cans
- 57% Cardboard boxes
- 51% Milk jugs
- 43% Laundry detergent jugs
- 42% Milk cartons
- 38% Plastic grocery bags
- 35% Junk mail
- 11% None of the above

Do you believe that plastic actually gets recycled?

- 62% Yes
- 26% I'm not sure
- 13% No

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: When no recycling bin is available, I feel guilty when I throw away a plastic bottle in the trash can.

- 37% Strongly agree
- 32% Somewhat agree
- 20% Neither agree nor disagree
- 7% Strongly disagree
- 4% Somewhat disagree

Does the recyclability of product packaging influence your decision to purchase one brand over another?

- 50% Yes
- 50% No

Items written in orange are generally NOT recyclable in your curbside bin



Sustainability in Action

64%

of consumers are confident about what types of plastics are recyclable.

YET

61%

of consumers incorrectly recycle flexible plastics.



38%

of consumers do not believe or aren't sure whether plastic actually gets recycled.

Younger consumers are more likely to indicate that the recyclability of product packaging influences their decision to purchase one brand over another.

62%

of consumers ages 18-24

58%

of consumers ages 25-34

56%

of consumers ages 35-44

say the recyclability of product packaging **influences their decision** to purchase one brand over another.

58%

of consumers ages 45-54

52%

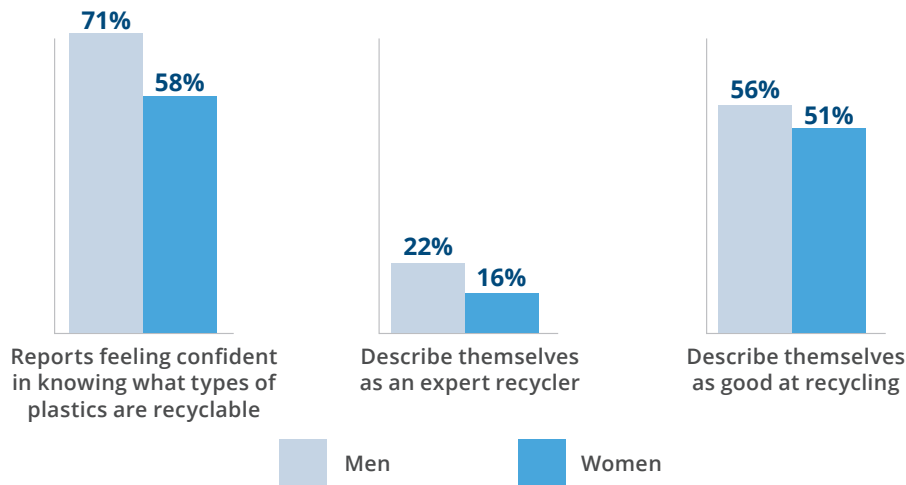
of consumers ages 55-64

65%

of consumers ages 65 and older

say recyclability of product packaging **does not influence** their purchasing decisions.

Men more often than women rate themselves highly when it comes to recycling.



Despite more men rating themselves higher when it comes to knowledge of recycling, men more often than women believe certain unrecyclable items can be recycled in their curbside bin.

64%

of men believe flexible plastics are recyclable

58%

of women believe flexible plastics are recyclable

