

Glass Containers

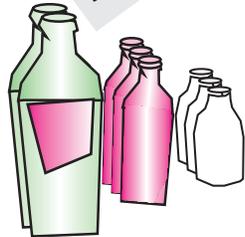
Recycling

Do...

Empty rinse and drain containers

Remove caps, lids; ok to leave labels

Separate by color when required



**Do...
buy new products
with recycled
content!**



Glass Containers

Recycling

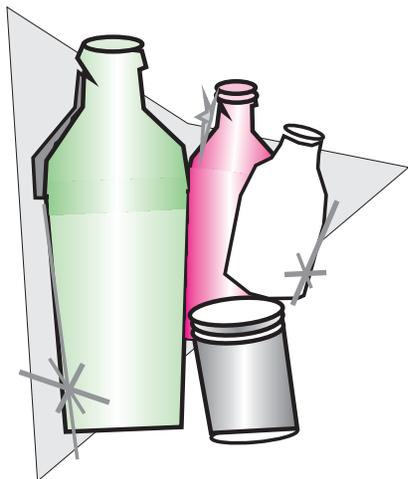
Do Not...

**Do Not...
Put plates,
cups or
saucers,
baking dishes
or flower pots
with
recyclables**



**Do Not...
mix trash with your
recyclables, or
your recyclables
will become trash!**





Click Recycle Right Icon to return to introductory page for general information about recycling, and visit the web sites of the following:

- * **Indiana Department of Environmental Management**
- * **Indiana Department of Commerce**
- * **Indiana Institute on Recycling**
- * **Indiana Recycling Coalition**
- * **Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts**
- * **Indianapolis DPW Recycling Info**

National Trade Association web sites:

- * **Aluminum Association**
- * **American Forest and Paper Association**
- * **Glass Packaging Institute**
- * **American Plastics Council**
- * **National Association for Plastic Container Recovery**
- * **Steel Recycling Institute**

More “Recycle Right” Tips

Preparing Glass for Recycling

- * ***Recycle any food or beverage product packaged in glass***
- * ***Empty, rinse and drain, color-separate if required***
- * ***Don’t place plates, cups, saucers or heat-resistant ovenware in with recyclables***
- * ***Do not include window glass, crystal, mirrors, or other non-container glass***



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Glass Containers and Recycling

Glass recycling has always been a part of the glass container manufacturing process. America's first industry was a glass blowing furnace operating in colonial Jamestown. Workers there produced glass bottles and beads for trade with the Indians. Their mistakes were re-melted and made into new glass items. Today, one of every three glass containers manufactured is recycled. A used glass container can be recycled over and over, again and again, in an endless "closed-loop" process.

Glass is made from some of the earth's most abundant materials...sand, soda ash and limestone, as well as "cullet," the industry's term for used glass containers that are processed into a furnace-ready feedstock. The only material used in greater volume than cullet is sand. These materials are mixed into what is called "Batch," heated to 2,600 to 2,800 degrees, and molded into the desired shape of the final container.

Glass containers are used by producers/fillers of foods, beverages, drugs and cosmetics. Approximately 61% of the bottles and jars made in this country are clear; 31% are brown and 7% are green. All other colors, such as blue, represent about 1% of the total production. Glass containers are of a different composition than the glass used to produce light bulbs, heat-resistant ovenware, window/auto glass, crystal tableware, TV tubes and ceramics.

The recycling of glass provides both economic and environmental benefits. Turning used glass containers into new bottles and jars diverts a 100% recyclable material from final disposal. It saves energy, since cullet melts at 2600 degrees as opposed to 2800 degrees. This reduction in energy consumption extends the life of capital intensive furnaces. Air emissions are lowered. Consumption of natural resources extracted by mining processes is also reduced.

The manufacture and recycling of glass containers makes significant contributions to Indiana's economy. As of 1999, there were over 2,000 skilled workers employed by five glass container manufacturing plants, one corporate headquarters and a cullet processing operation located here. That number represents a payroll of \$87,000,000. Just one of the plants could utilize virtually all the color-separated recycled glass bottles and jars generated by Indiana residents in its manufacturing process.