

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Material Glossary

Material	Definition
Aggregate	Aggregate is the crushed stone, gravel, and sand used to create concrete.
Aluminum Cans	Aluminum cans are typically used to package soda, beer, and other beverages.
Appliances	Appliances include refrigerators, washing machines, water heaters, toasters, hair dryers, electric coffee pots, etc.
Batteries	Batteries used to provide power for electronics and other portable devices.
Branches	Branches include woody debris from trees, bushes, and plants.
Bricks	Bricks are produced by firing materials such as clay, kaolin, fire clay, bentonite, or common clay and shale. The majority of the bricks produced in the US are clay.
Computers	Typically consists of laptops, monitors, keyboards, central processing units (CPUs) or towers, and other electronics associated with computers.
Concrete/Cement	Typically includes material used for sidewalks, walls, and building foundations, to name a few.
Construction/Demo Debris	Typically consists of building materials such as asphalt and concrete, shingles, gypsum (drywall), steel, wood, plastic, carpet, lead, paint, and ceiling tiles.
Copper Wire	Wiring made from non-ferrous copper metal used mainly for circuits and electrical wiring.
Corrugated (Cardboard Box)	Corrugated includes virgin and recycled corrugated boxes.
Electronic Media	Electronic media CDs, disks, video tapes, etc.
Electronics	Electronics include TVs, VCRs, DVD players, radios, etc.
Fats, Oils, & Greases	Fats, oils, and greases generated as a result of food preparation.
Fiberboard	Fiberboard is a panel product that consists of wood chips pressed and bonded with a resin. Fiberboard is used primarily to make furniture.

Fly Ash	Fly ash is a byproduct of coal combustion that is used as a cement replacement in concrete.
Food	Food consists of uneaten food and wasted, prepared food from residences, commercial establishments such as grocery stores and restaurants, institutional sources such as school cafeterias, and industrial sources such as factory lunchrooms.
Glass	Glass is typically used for food and beverage containers. Can also include durable goods, such as furniture, appliances, and especially consumer electronics.
Glue/Adhesive	Glue/Adhesives are mixtures in a liquid or semi-liquid state that adheres or bonds items together.
Grass	Grass clippings from a lawn or yard.
High Grade Paper	High grade paper includes letterhead, copier paper, envelopes, and printer and convertor scrap that has gone through the printing process.
Ink	Ink is a liquid material used for writing and printing and is typically found in printer cartridges and pens.
Leather	Leather is a material typically used in making jackets, shoes, handbags, and furniture.
Light bulbs/Fluorescent lights	Typically include tubular and compact fluorescent lamps, incandescent light bulbs, and high intensity discharge lamps (mercury vapor, metal halide, high pressure sodium).
Lumber	Lumber is treated wood used for containers, packaging, and building and includes crates, pallets, and dimensional lumber like two by fours.
Magazines and other glossy paper	Magazines and other glossy paper are usually made of shiny, coated paper.
Magazines/Third-class mail	Third Class Mail is now called Standard Mail by the U.S. Postal Service and includes catalogs and other direct bulk mailings. Magazines are made of coated, shiny paper.
Metal (Type Unknown)	Metals that don't fit into the other metal definitions (e.g., other ferrous metals, other non-ferrous metals)
Mixed Municipal Solid Waste	Mixed MSW is a general term for all of the waste material typically discarded and collected by collection vehicles.
Mixed Office Paper	Mixed paper from offices includes copy and printer paper, stationary and envelopes, and commercial printing.

Mixed Organics	Typically consist of a mixture of yard trimmings, food scraps and other organic material. Note, this is not limited to specialty items labeled "Organic" by the USDA or other authorities.
Mixed Paper	Mixed paper includes almost all printing-writing paper, folding boxes, and most paper packaging.
Mixed Plastics	Mixed plastics are a mixture of recyclable plastics that includes one or more of the following types of plastic: HDPE (high-density polyethylene, or plastic code #2), LDPE (low-density polyethelene, plastic code #4), and/or PET (polyethylene terephthalate, or plastic code #1). Containers and packaging that fall into this category will usually be labeled plastic code #1, #2, or #4 on the bottom.
Mixed Recyclables	Mixed recyclables are a mixture of materials that are typically recycled. This includes but is not limited to: aluminum cans, steel cans, glass, plastic codes #1, #2, and #4, corrugated cardboard, magazines/thirdclass mail, newspaper, office paper, phonebooks, textbooks, lumber, and medium-density fiberboard.
Mixed Residential Paper	Mixed paper from residences includes the typical mix of papers from residential curbside pick-up (e.g., high grade office paper, magazines, catalogs, commercial printing, folding cartons, and a small amount of old cardboard containers).
Motor Oil	Motor oil is used in car, motorcycle, bus, boat, lawn mower, and other equipment engines.
Newspaper	Newspaper represents uncoated paper made from 70% mechanical pulp and 30% chemical pulp. For the carbon sequestration portion of the factor, it was assumed that the paper was all mechanical pulp.
Other Ferrous Metals	Other ferrous metals are iron and steel, found in durable goods such as appliances, furniture, and tires.
Other Non-Ferrous Metals	Non-ferrous metals (e.g., aluminum, lead, copper, zinc) are found in durable products such as appliances, consumer electronics, etc.
Other Yard Waste	Organic yard waste materials that don't fit into the grass, yard trimmings, or branches categories.
Paint	A liquid mixture, usually of a solid pigment in a liquid vehicle, used as a decorative or protective coating.

Plastic Code #1, PET	PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) is typically labeled plastic code #1 on the bottom of the container. PET is used for soft drink and disposable water bottles, but can also include other containers or packaging.
Plastic Code #2, HDPE	HDPE (high-density polyethylene) is usually labeled plastic code #2 on the bottom of the container, and refers to a plastic used to make bottles for milk, juice, water and laundry products.
Plastic Code #3, PVC/Vinyl	PVC (Polyvinyl chloride) is typically labeled plastic code #3 and includes pipes and vinyl, as well as some plastic containers and packaging.
Plastic Code #4, LDPE	LDPE (Low-density polyethylene), usually labeled plastic code #4, is used to manufacture plastic grocery bags and dry cleaning bags. LDPE is also used to manufacture some flexible lids and bottles.
Plastic Code #5, Polypropylene	Polypropylene is typically labeled plastic code #5, and is found in everything from flexible and rigid packaging to fibers and large molded parts for automotive and consumer products.
Plastic Code #6, Polystyrene	Polystyrene is typically labeled plastic code #6 and includes protective packaging, containers, lids, cups, bottles, trays and tumblers.
Porcelain	Porcelain is a hard, ceramic material used for making plates, cups, and other items.
Rubber	Rubber includes rubber tires from automobiles and trucks, clothing, footwear, gaskets on appliances, furniture, and hot water bottles.
Sand/Soil/Dirt	Excess sand/soil/dirt from landscaping and construction.
Steel Cans	Steel cans are mostly food cans.
Telephones	Includes any portable (cell phones) or non-portable (office telephones) telephones.
Textbooks	Textbooks represent books made from paper produced from chemical pulp.
Textiles	Textiles are discarded clothing, furniture, carpets, tires, footwear, sheets and towels.
Tires	Tires represent scrap tires that have been disposed of by consumers and have several end uses in the U.S. market including as a fuel, in civil engineering, and in various

	ground rubber applications such as running tracks and molded products.
Wood	Wood Products (dimensional lumber and medium density fiberboard) include furniture, cabinets and wood packaging (crates, pallets).
Yard Trimmings	Yard trimmings include grass, leaves, trees, and brush from residential, institutional, and commercial sources.