



## **How to sort school cafeteria waste FAQs**

### Food scraps

- Napkins and paper towels are accepted
- Bones, shells, meat, and dairy items are accepted
- If you can't remove food from the package, then put the packaged food in the trash. Only unpackaged food and napkins and paper towels should go in the food scraps bin.
- Note: A few items such as teabags and BPI certified compostable dishware can also go in with the compost, but because we have not seen these in the cafeteria we have not put this on the current signage.

### Recycling

- Containers must be emptied or scraped out before putting containers in the recycling. If you can't empty them - put them in the trash. We want clean recycling!
  - Liquids should go down a drain, if available.
- Clean aluminum foil is recyclable. Ball it up. Empty all food waste first.
- Items may have a recycle symbol on them, but only empty plastic, glass, and metal bottles, cans, jugs, jars, tubs, (clear) cups and "clamshell" containers (see example photo on the recycling sign), are acceptable in the recycling bin at school and at home.

### Trash

- Milk and juice cartons and the paper "boats" (and other items) may say "recyclable", but in eastern Massachusetts, all milk, juice, and soup cartons go in the trash and the paper boats probably have food on them - put them in the trash.
- If you can't remove food from the package (we know those carrot and apple bags are tricky to open!), then put in the trash.
- Plastic utensils and straws, ketchup and syrup containers - put in the trash empty or full.

### Sorting

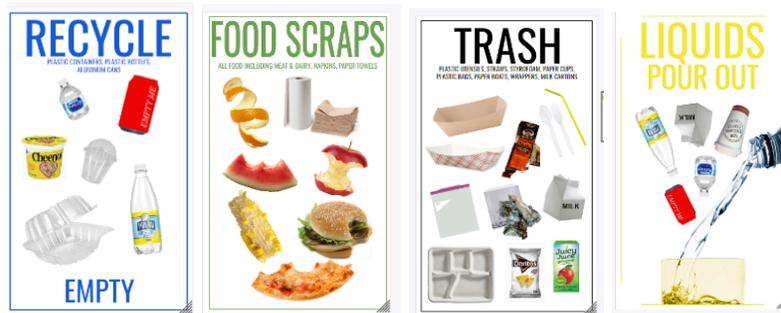
- A reminder by lunch aids to students to sort out their waste while they are at the lunch table will help save time at the sorting stations.

City of Newton  
Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
DIVISION OF  
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- If you don't know where something goes, ask an adult or friend for help, if you can. If there's not enough time, remember "When in doubt, throw it out." And try to find out answers to your question for next time!
- What if I throw something in the wrong bin? It's ok, don't worry, it happens to us all, just try to put that same item in the right bin next time.
- Can we reach into the bin for any reason? No. Don't reach in any of the bins to pull something out. This is unsafe.



(liquids collection optional)

Feel free to call me with any questions, 617-796-1443.

Allison Kelley (she/her)

Waste Diversion Coordinator

[Sustainable Materials Management](#)

Department of Public Works

City of Newton

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**Want to get rid of stuff? Have recycling or trash questions?**

Go to [www.newtonma.gov/recycling](http://www.newtonma.gov/recycling)

[Use the Recycle Right Newton tool or app](#)