

ASK THE GANG!



Q: Is thermal paper recyclable?

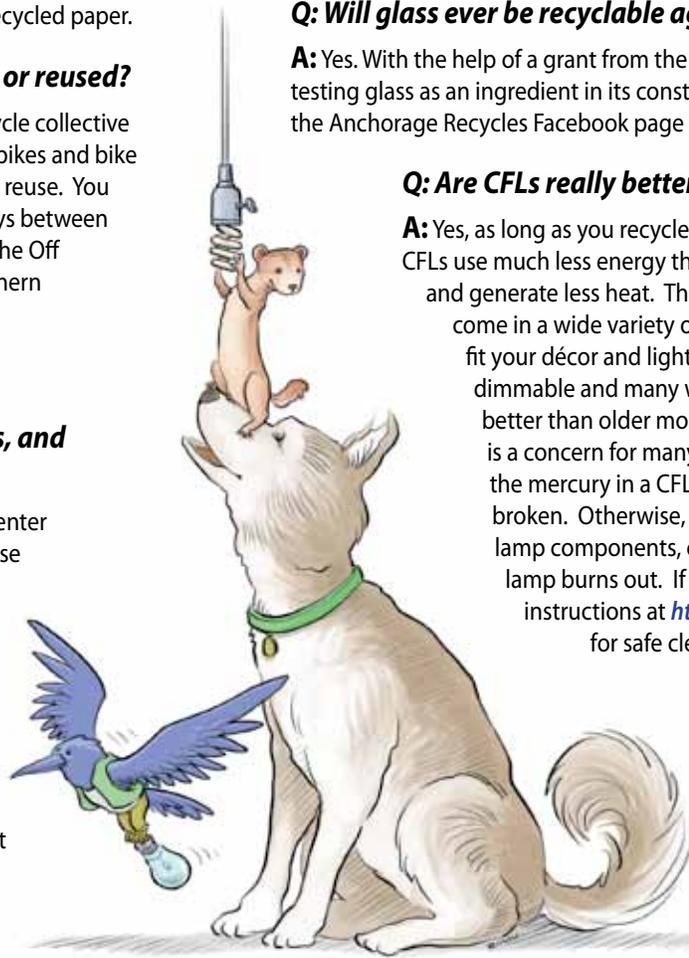
A: No. Thermal paper, like the shiny type of cash register receipts, should not be put in your recycling bin. The paper is embedded with chemicals that interact when heated in machines such as thermal printers for cash registers, causing a color dye to darken in the receipt. These chemicals are contaminants and decrease the value of the recycled paper.

Q: Can bikes or bike parts be recycled or reused?

A: Yes. Off the Chain, a local, all-volunteer bicycle collective in Anchorage, will accept adult and children's bikes and bike parts, as well as bike gear, for refurbishing and reuse. You can drop off items on Wednesdays and Sundays between 3 and 8pm. Your donation is tax deductible. The Off the Chain Bike Co-op is located at 814 W. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite W-15, at the west end of the Mat-Maid building, in Anchorage. Learn more about them at www.offthechainak.org.

Q: Can aluminum foil, pie plates/trays, and aluminum pet food cans be recycled?

A: Yes, but only at the Anchorage Recycling Center during regular business hours. Do not put these items in your curbside recycling cart. These types of aluminum are a different grade than aluminum beverage cans so they cannot be recycled together. The temperatures use to melt a beverage can would simply burn up these other types of aluminum. There is a bin behind the fence at the Anchorage Recycling Center, which is accessible during business hours, that accepts foil, pie plates, pet food cans and other non-beverage aluminum.



Q: Can metal caps and lids be recycled?

A: Yes. You can put metal beer caps in the same bin with steel cans. Aluminum twist-off caps can go in the same bin with the other miscellaneous aluminum items that are not beer or soda cans, mentioned in the response above.

Q: Will glass ever be recyclable again in Anchorage?

A: Yes. With the help of a grant from the Municipality, a local company is testing glass as an ingredient in its construction products. Keep an eye on the Anchorage Recycles Facebook page for updates as they happen.

Q: Are CFLs really better than incandescent bulbs?

A: Yes, as long as you recycle the CFLs when they burn out. CFLs use much less energy than regular incandescent bulbs and generate less heat. They last much longer and now come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes, and colors, to fit your décor and lighting needs. Some are even dimmable and many withstand cold temperatures better than older models did. The issue of mercury is a concern for many people but keep in mind that the mercury in a CFL is only released if the lamp is broken. Otherwise, the mercury, as well as the other lamp components, can be safely recycled when the lamp burns out. If you do break a lamp, follow the instructions at <http://epa.gov/cfl/cflcleanup.html> for safe cleanup.

To recycle CFLs in Anchorage, contact Total Reclaim (see below) or drop off unbroken lamps at the customer service desk at The Home Depot.

A QUICK LOOK: Waste & Recycling Resources

Alaska Waste.....	www.alaskawaste.com	563-3717	Hilltop Recycling.....	www.hilltoprecycling.com	696-2246
ALPAR.....	www.alparalaska.com	274-3266	MOA Solid Waste Services.....	www.muni.org/sws	343-6262
Anchorage Recycling Center		562-2267	Mobile Metals		277-7777
Anchorage School District Recycling.....	www.asdk12.org/depts/recycling	348-5151	Schnitzer Steel - Anchorage ...	www.alaskametalrecycling.com	349-4833
Central Recycling Services.....	www.centralrecyclingservices.com	748-7400	Southside Recycling.....	pnuts33@hotmail.com	242-9587
Girdwood Recycling.....	girdwoodrecycling2010@gmail.com	242-5520	Total Reclaim.....	www.totalreclaim.com/Alaska.html	561-0544
Girmscheid Enterprises.....	prodigalson@gci.net	770-1720	Tri Digital Computer Services...	tcsak.com	696-7272
			Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS).....	www.valleyrecycling.org	907-745-5544

See page 4 for organics resources