The steel and aluminum cans are crushed, melted, and flattened into sheets of metal.

**Collection & Processing**

The recycling cycle begins when recyclables are placed in your recycling cart.

Recycling collection occurs nationwide depending on community participation. Most recyclables are collected curbside or through drop-off centers, buy-back centers, or deposit/refund programs.

Recyclables that are collected all together (commingled), go to a materials recovery facility (MRF) to be sorted and prepared for market.

**Manufacturing**

Once the raw material is separated, it is sent to other factories to be made into new products.

Newspaper and cardboard are shredded, pulped, dried and flattened into new rolls of paper.

The steel and aluminum cans are crushed, melted, and flattened into sheets of metal.

Plastic bottles are chipped, melted, and remolded.

**Buy Recycled Goods**

It is always important to buy recycled products to keep them “in demand” and support the recycling cycle.

You close the loop by buying recycled material. This final step restarts the cycle and secures the success and value of recycling.

- **Some products**, like aluminum and steel cans, can be recycled again and again.
- **Other products**, like paper, may be recycled once into bathroom tissue and then reach the end of its life.
- **Plastic bottles** can be made into new bottles, backpacks, and rulers.
- **Glass** can be recycled into new bottles, jars, or even tiles.
- **Steel cans** can be made into bikes, nails, or even cars.
- **Corrugated cardboard** and newspaper can become pens, pencils, paper, cardboard boxes, or insulation.
- **Aluminum cans** can be remade into new cans but also can become lawn furniture or gutters.
- **Cold drinks**

**Remember not to bag your recyclables!**

Plastic bags are the #1 reason for contamination and can cause problems with the equipment. Plastic bags can be taken back to your grocery store for recycling.

For a complete list of recyclables, visit RecycleGuys.Org.