

Appendix E – Scope of Materials Included in the EPA Standard Definition of MSW

TABLE A. SCOPE OF MATERIALS INCLUDED IN THE STANDARD MSW RECYCLING RATE

MATERIAL¹	WHAT IS MSW	WHAT IS NOT MSW²
Food Scraps	Uneaten food and food preparation wastes from residences and commercial establishments (restaurants, supermarkets, and produce stands), institutional sources (school cafeterias), and industrial sources (employee lunchrooms).	Food processing waste from agricultural and industrial operations.
Glass Containers	Containers; packaging; and glass found in appliances, furniture, and consumer electronics.	Glass from transportation equipment (automobiles) and construction and demolition (C&D) debris (windows).
Lead-Acid Batteries	Batteries from automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles.	Batteries from aircraft, military vehicles, boats, and heavy-duty trucks and tractors.
Tin/Steel Cans and Other Ferrous Metals	Tin-coated steel cans; strapping; and ferrous metals from appliances (refrigerators), consumer electronics, and furniture.	Ferrous metals from C&D debris and transportation equipment.
Aluminum Cans and Other Nonferrous Metals	Aluminum cans; nonferrous metals from appliances, furniture, and consumer electronics; and other aluminum items (foil and lids from bimetal cans).	Nonferrous metals from industrial applications and C&D debris (aluminum siding, wiring, and piping).
Paper	Old corrugated containers; old magazines; old newspapers; office papers; telephone directories; and other paper products including books, third-class mail, commercial printing, paper towels, and paper plates and cups.	Paper manufacturing waste (mill broke) and converting scrap not recovered for recycling.
Plastic	Containers; packaging; bags and wraps; and plastics found in appliances, furniture, and sporting and recreational equipment.	Plastics from transportation equipment.
Textiles	Fiber from apparel, furniture, linens (sheets and towels), carpets ³ and rugs, and footwear.	Textile waste generated during manufacturing processes (mill scrap) and C&D projects.
Tires	Tires from automobiles and trucks.	Tires from motorcycles ⁴ , buses, and heavy farm and construction equipment.
Wood	Pallets; crates; barrels; and wood found in furniture and consumer electronics.	Wood from C&D debris (lumber and tree stumps ⁵) and industrial process waste (shavings and sawdust).
Yard Trimmings	Grass, leaves, brush and branches, and tree stumps. ⁵	Yard trimmings from C&D debris.
Other	Household hazardous waste (HHW) ⁶ , oil filters, fluorescent tubes ⁷ , mattresses, and consumer electronics.	Abatement debris, agricultural waste, combustion ash, C&D debris, industrial process waste, medical waste, mining waste, municipal sewage and industrial sludges, natural disaster debris ⁸ , used motor oil, oil and gas waste, and preconsumer waste.