

Fridge of Errors Answer Key Explanations

In this fridge, you are looking for the items you can't place into the recycling cart or take to a food scrap drop-off site.

On the bottom of the “Fridge of Errors” page, you will see the answer key. The below will walk you through where to find the item and say why they should be circled.

Later on, we will go through the rest of the items to explain what everything else is, and why it's okay.

Explaining the Errors:

- **Fish**
 - Location in the fridge: Sticking out of the crisper drawer on the bottom right.
 - What's the problem?: Fish do not belong in the recycling cart. We can't accept fish at the farmers' market drop-off sites. We can only take fruit & veggie scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells, and similar stuff. No meat. No bones. No fish.
- **Hot dogs**
 - Location in the fridge: On top of the yogurt container on the bottom shelf.
 - What's the problem?: Hot dogs do not go into the recycling cart. Hot dog packaging, also, do not go into the recycling cart. We can't accept hot dogs at the farmers' market drop-off sites for composting either because the sites do not accept meat.
- **Coffee mug**
 - Location in the fridge: Middle drawer on the right hand side. It's pink!
 - What's the problem?: Ceramic items, like this coffee mug, do not belong in the recycling cart. And you can't compost a ceramic mug.
- **Stick of butter & wrapper**
 - Location in the fridge: Bottom shelf in the middle, just to the right of the tennis shoes.
 - What's the problem?: Butter & butter wrappers do not belong in the recycling cart. That plasticky, waxy butter-covered paper just goes into the trash. Also, we can't accept either of these for composting at the farmers' market drop-off sites.
- **Shoes**
 - Location in the fridge: Bottom shelf, between the butter and the egg shells.
 - What's the problem?: Shoes never belong in the recycling cart. You should donate them if you don't want them anymore. This is true for all clothes & textiles – never put them in the recycling. And, it goes without saying, shoes can't be composted at the farmers' market sites, either.

- **Chinese Takeout Container**
 - Location in the fridge: Second shelf, under the apples on the left hand side.
 - What's the problem?: Takeout containers like this (they are technically called oyster pails) do not belong in the recycling cart. Also, you may notice the red noodles dangling out from the lid – so it's not even empty. We can't accept these containers at the food scraps drop-off sites.
- **Full Half & Half Container**
 - Location in the fridge: Next to the Chinese takeout container on the second shelf.
 - What's the problem?: Notice the stink lines? It's still full of rotten creamer! Never put full cartons, bottles, or containers of food in the recycling. Also, we can't accept creamer at the farmers' market food scraps drop-off sites.
- **Headphones**
 - Location in the fridge: On top of the pizza box, next to the cheese
 - What's the problem?: You can't put headphones in the recycling cart. They get tangled in the sorting machinery. You need to take headphones and all other electronics to a Streets Division drop-off site so they can be recycled for free. And, it should be obvious, you can't compost electronic headphones so we don't take them at the farmers' markets.
- **Cheese**
 - Location in the fridge: On top of the pizza box, next to the headphones
 - What's the problem?: You shouldn't put cheese in the recycling cart. Your recycling cart is just for things like plastic bottles & jugs, aluminum cans, paper, folded down boxes, and glass bottles & jars. Don't put food in there. And we can't take cheese at the farmers' market drop-off sites. Dairy products have a lot of fat and oil in them, so they can attract rodents at the farm that takes the food scraps delivered to the farmers' markets.
- **Coffee Mug**
 - Location in the fridge: On the second shelf to the right of the pizza box
 - What's the problem?: Never put ceramic items like coffee mugs in the recycling cart. It's the wrong kind of item to put into the cart. Also, it's full of coffee! And, once again, you can't compost a ceramic coffee mug so we don't take them at the food scraps drop-off site at the farmers' markets.
- **Plastic Bag Holding the Broccoli**
 - Location in the fridge: Top shelf on the left side.
 - What's the problem?: Plastic bags do not belong in the recycling cart. And you shouldn't put broccoli in the recycling cart either. You can compost broccoli just fine, but you can't compost the plastic bag. For you to recycle this plastic bag, you need to take it to a retailer that offers plastic bag recycling. And in the future, try to avoid creating plastic bag waste whenever you can.

- **Batteries**
 - Location in the fridge: Top shelf near the yellow bell pepper
 - What's the problem?: Batteries are a fire hazard. Never put them in them in the carts at your home. Take them to a drop-off site so they can be recycled safely. And you can't compost batteries, so we don't take them at these locations either.
- **Cupcake**
 - Location in the fridge: Top shelf on the right side
 - What's the problem?: Obviously, cupcakes don't belong in the recycling cart. They also can't be taken to the farmers' market drop-off sites either. Since the scraps taken at the market drop-off site locations go to a farmer to compost, and what he does is basically just a larger version of what you can do in your backyard, we can only take vegetables, fruits, coffee grounds, and egg shells.
- **Toothpaste Tube**
 - Location in the fridge: In the door on the right-hand side on the top, next to the bag of salad
 - What's the problem?: You can't compost a toothpaste tube (it's made of plastic). And you can't put a toothpaste tube in the recycling cart either. Some brands of toothpaste may say you can, but that's not true in Madison. Our recycling system can't accept toothpaste tubes. They are often full of toothpaste, and they are so small and flat that they will sneak in with the cardboard instead of being sorted into the other plastics.
- **Foam Finger**
 - Location in the fridge: In the door on the right-hand side – but I'm sure if you found anything in the fridge, you found this one.
 - What's the problem?: Foam fingers aren't compostable because they are made from plastic. You can't put foam fingers into the recycling cart either. True, they are made from plastic and we do really love foam fingers because they are so silly and joyful – but you can't recycle them in the cart. They also aren't made from styrofoam. Styrofoam is a whole other kind of foam that will snap or break when you try to bend it, so the City of Madison does not have a recycling program for this particular kind of foam. So, whenever this team is no longer number 1 in your hear, maybe donate it or resell it or sadly it may need to go to the trash.
- **Plastic Bag Holding the Salad**
 - Location in the fridge: In the door on the right-hand side at the top
 - What's the problem?: This is the same situation with the bag holding the broccoli. The salad inside could be composted, but the bag is a problem. You can't recycle that bag in the green cart at your home. And the bag can't be composted.

- **Water Filter Jug**
 - Location in the fridge: In the door on the right-hand side next to the foam finger.
 - What's the problem?: You can't recycle these kind of jugs. It's the wrong kind of plastic and the filters are full of charcoal or something else to that does the water filtering work. And these hard plastic things are not something you can compost, so they are not accepted at the farmers' market food scraps locations.
- **Three Full Jars**
 - Location(s) in the fridge: One is in the door of the fridge on the lower right shelf. It is orange/red in color, so it looks kind of like it is full of tomato sauce. Immediately next to that one is a full bottle full of a mysterious brown liquid that kind of looks like some kind of sauce. The third one is on the top shelf on the left side of the fridge. It is full of pickles.
 - What's the problem?: You can't recycle full jars. You have to empty them out. Full jars are a problem for the recycling system. Good recyclables are clean, empty, and dry. And you can't compost pickles, tomato sauce, and mysterious brown sauce at the farmers' market drop-off sites.

Explaining Everything Else

- Bottles & Jars in the Fridge Doors:
 - These are supposed to look empty, especially in comparison to the three that are full. The bottom shelf on the left are all empty and clean. The plastic bottle on the top left is empty. The completely yellow one on the top left and the one that kind of looks like a lemon in front of the foam finger: yeah, these are tricky, but there are solid plastic bottles and jars out there that are recyclable if they are clean, empty, and dry.
- Milk jug
 - That is supposed to look empty and crinkled slightly. This is perfectly recyclable.
- Red pop can
 - Again, it is supposed to give the appearance of being dented, so hopefully it seems empty, meaning it must be okay for the recycling cart.
- Ear of corn
 - This is perfectly okay for the food scraps composting program. (Don't put corn in the recycling cart.)
- Egg shells & cardboard egg carton
 - The shells can go to the food scraps drop-off site
 - The cardboard carton can be recycled
- Grapes
 - Perfectly okay to compost grapes and the stems (if you don't eat them up first, of course – they look good!). Do not put grapes in the recycling cart.
- Soup carton
 - These cartons are perfectly recyclable. Just give it a rinse and pop it right into the recycling cart. Put the lid back on.
- Radishes
 - Compostable at the food scraps drop-off site if you aren't using them up. Never put food in the recycling cart.
- Yogurt tub
 - Perfectly recyclable in the cart at your home. Just make sure it is clean, empty, and dry.
- Apples
 - Notice the worm poking out of there? Probably just want to take these to the farmers' market for composting. Don't put apples in the recycling cart.
- Junk mail
 - Perfectly okay to put your unwanted mail in the recycling cart.

- Pizza box
 - They are now recyclable! Just make sure all the pizza crust and any leftovers are out of the box. Even if the box is greasy.
- Broccoli
 - Compostable at the market sites (just not the plastic bag). Don't put food in the recycling cart. And don't put plastic bags in the recycling cart, either.
- Strawberries
 - Compostable at the market sites. Don't put strawberries in the recycling cart.
- Berry container
 - This is hard to see, but the strawberries are in a plastic box. Berry boxes are recyclable once you get the berries out. If they are clean, empty, and dry. You can recycle them.
- Moldy tomato
 - Compostable at the market sites. Don't put tomatoes in the recycling cart.
- Bok choy or other mysterious greens.
 - Compostable at the market sites. Don't put leafy greens in the recycling cart.
- Yellow pepper
 - Compostable at the market sites. Don't put food in the recycling cart.
- Watermelon rind
 - Compostable at the market sites. Don't put food in the recycling cart.
- Bananas
 - Compostable at the market sites. Don't put food in the recycling cart.
- Asparagus
 - Compostable at the market sites. Don't put food in the recycling cart.
- Canning jar holding the asparagus
 - This jar would be recyclable if the asparagus was removed to be composted, or eaten (asparagus is delicious!).