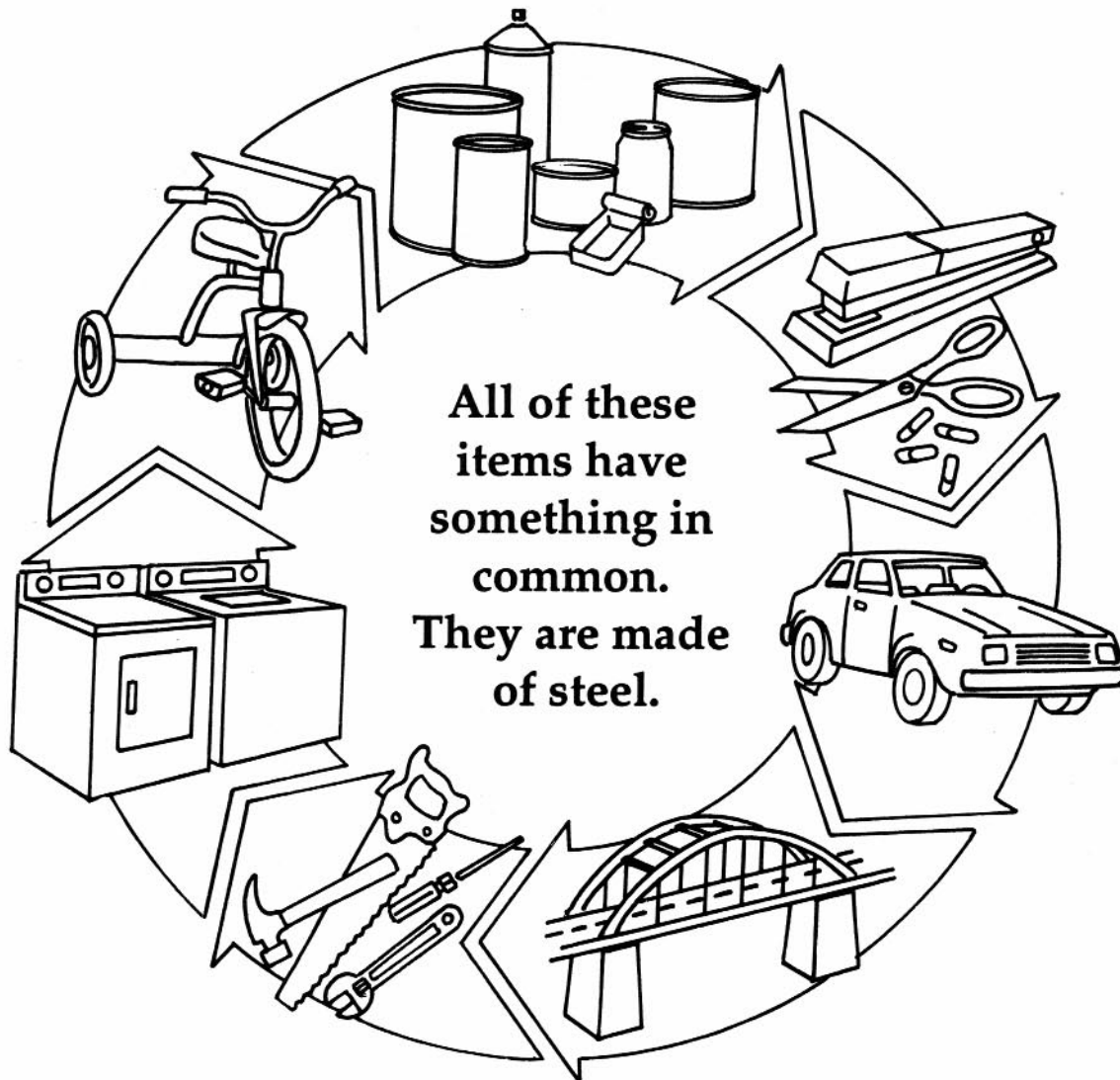


STEEL RECYCLING LIFE CYCLE



RECYCLE. AGAIN.

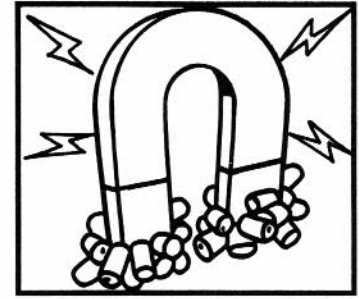
All steel products have something else in common. They all contain recycled steel.

THE CYCLE

To make new steel, you need old steel. When a steel can is recycled, it may become a car, a refrigerator, or a beam for construction. And when cars, refrigerators and beams are recycled, they become new steel products. Steel products, including steel cans, may be recycled over and over. So the steel can you're using today—whether it contains fruit or vegetables or other products—contains recycled steel, and may be recycled again.

STEEL CAN RECYCLING

Steel can recycling is helped along by an important quality that only steel products have: they are magnetic. Steel cans may be removed from the solid waste stream or separated from other recyclables magnetically.



Empty steel cans may be collected for recycling through any recycling collection program. For curbside collection, steel cans need to be emptied and rinsed. They should be rinsed in leftover dishwater or in empty space in the dishwasher so that extra water isn't used for rinsing.

Steel cans are also collected through voluntary drop-off programs and multi-material recycling centers, where citizens who don't have curbside collection service may take their recyclable materials.

Finally, steel cans are recycled "automatically" at resource recovery plants (plants that convert solid waste into energy), where the cans are removed from the solid waste stream (the trash from your house) magnetically for recycling.

HOW STEEL MILLS USE STEEL CANS

After collection, steel cans and other steel products are sent to steel mills to be made into new steel. There are two types of furnaces used to make steel, depending on the product into which the steel will be made. One type is the basic oxygen furnace, which consumes about 25 percent "scrap." (Scrap is the steel industry's term for the old steel that will be recycled into new steel.) The other, the electric arc furnace, consumes about 100 percent scrap to make new steel. In either case, some of this scrap is steel leftover from steelmaking and product manufacturing, and the rest is steel products that have been "used up," such as cans, appliances, or cars.



Recycling helps preserve our environment. You can help your community by participating in recycling collection programs and by teaching others to recycle.

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