# Aluminum Foil and Pans

## Your Guide For Safe Disposal and Recycling In Calumet County

### Why Is Recycling Aluminum Foil So Difficult?

While aluminum cans are one of the easiest items to recycle, aluminum foil and pans are not the same. In addition, these products cannot be recycled together because they melt at different temperatures, and this can contaminate the recycling process.

To be able to recycle aluminum foil and pans, you must first make sure they are clean of food debris. If the foil or pan is heavily covered in oily or greasy materials it should be disposed of in the regular garbage instead of being recycled. Contaminated aluminum foil or pans can cause problems with recycling equipment, or create an inferior product.

Because aluminum foil and pans are often covered in food contaminates, most recycling centers are unwilling to accept these 100% recyclable products.

### Aluminum Foil/Pans Recycling Locations

With aluminum foil and pans being so hard to recycle, there are not a lot of centers in Northeast Wisconsin that process it. The centers that do process foil and pans typically treat it as ordinary scrap metal.

For a list of the recycling centers that accept aluminum foil and pans in the area, please go to earth911.com.

### Additional Tips

Instead of throwing away contaminated aluminum foil and pans, try cleaning it for additional use. Foil and pans can easily be washed either by hand, or in a dishwasher.

Aluminum foil can additionally be used in place of steel wool pads to scrub tough to clean dishes. Just crumple up a handful of aluminum foil and it can be a cheap replacement for steel wool pads.

Aluminum foil can also be used to sharpen a pair of scissors. Simply fold the aluminum foil into several layers and start cutting. After seven or eight cuts, your scissors should be sharp again.

## Community Recycling in **Calumet County**

For more information about our programs and events, please visit calumetrecycles.com