What’s the Problem?

What do frozen food and soda have in common? They are both packaged in unrecyclable paperboard.

The paperboard used for frozen food and soda cartons is called wet-strength paper board - paper material lined with polyethylene plastic.

This structure helps the container keep its shape and strength in cold temperatures and prevents it from becoming soggy when wet.

However, since the paper and plastic materials cannot be separated, the mix-material item is unrecyclable.

Most residential recycling does not accept this material, however it is always best to check with your local recycling program.

What can you do?

1. Buy less products packaged in wet-strength paperboard
2. DO NOT put the material in your recycling cart unless your program explicitly states it is accepted
3. Buy brands that do not mix plastic with paperboard