



Spring 2010

Recycling the Right Way

Good Intentions Aren't Always Enough

Even avid recyclers who truly want to waste less and be more “green”, don’t always know exactly how Frederick County’s residential recycling program works. And many people don’t understand what happens to their recyclables after they are placed out for curbside collection. This often leads to making guesses—about what can be recycled, about how materials can be collected and other details that affect the success of the program. **Currently, more than 6% of what our residents set out for recycling collection is actually trash!**

We’re here to help! This flyer describes some fundamentals of the recycling program. If you still have questions, from what’s recyclable to how it gets recycled, call us at 301-600-2960, or send email to: recycle@FrederickCountyMD.gov. We also have staff available to present programs and information on recycling to your group or for special events; help us spread the word! **The more that residents understand what and how to recycle, the more successful and sustainable Frederick County’s recycling program will be.**



Please DON'T:

- ✘ **Put non-recyclable materials into your collection container.** *When in doubt, throw it out!*
- ✘ **Place recyclable materials inside garbage or other bags.** *The only exceptions to this rule are shredded paper, which should be placed inside a paper bag, and plastic bags marked with a recycling symbol, which should be gathered together inside a single recyclable plastic bag.*
- ✘ **Leave styrofoam packing materials inside a cardboard box or other container.**
- ✘ **Leave foods or liquids inside of containers.** *All containers should be emptied!*
- ✘ **Recycle microwaveable plastics.** *This includes frozen dinner trays, take-out meal containers, and items marked “microwave safe”.*
- ✘ **Recycle thin, brittle, “clamshell” plastics.** *This includes fruit, bakery and deli containers as well as others, regardless of what number is imprinted on them.*
- ✘ **Recycle used paper plates, greasy pizza boxes, tissues, waxed paper or any soiled paper products.**



Why NOT:

- **It makes the recycling program less efficient and reduces the value of the recyclable materials.**
- **Unlike garbage, recyclable materials must be sorted.** *This means that if items were placed in a bag someone at the sorting facility would have to manually open every bag—something that simply isn't feasible given the quantity of material collected from across the county.*
- **NO styrofoam of any kind is accepted for recycling in Frederick County.**
- **Liquids increase the program’s expense and decrease its efficiency and success.**
- **Microwaveable plastics are treated to be highly heat-resistant.** *This makes them difficult to recombine with other plastics.*
- **They just don’t recycle well in our system.** *These materials generally don't survive the mechanical collection and sorting processes in a recyclable condition.*
- **Unlike other materials, paper is absorbent.** *This means that once oils get on paper they bind to its fibers and cannot be separated.*

- **The process of collecting, transporting, sorting and disposing of non-recyclable waste makes Frederick County’s recycling program less efficient and more expensive. Remember, when in doubt, throw it out!**

REDUCE

REUSE

RECYCLE



The Department of Solid Waste Management

Single-Stream Recycling in Frederick County

Recyclable at the Curb, Mixed Together:

- ✓ Magazines and catalogs, junk mail and envelopes
- ✓ Newspapers (including all inserts)
- ✓ Greeting cards without glitter and foil
- ✓ Non-metallic wrapping paper
- ✓ Clean paper products—colored and white (such as typing, fax, copy, letterhead, file folders, cardstock, etc.)
- ✓ Shredded paper (gather and place inside a paper bag or cardboard box)
- ✓ Brown paper bags
- ✓ Paperboard boxes (such as cracker and cereal boxes without liners)
- ✓ Corrugated cardboard (boxes do not have to be broken down or bundled)
- ✓ Books (including paperbacks, hardbacks and telephone books)
- ✓ Paper or plastic milk and juice jugs/cartons
- ✓ Tetra Packs—such as soy/rice milk cartons and juice boxes (*not* juice pouches)
- ✓ Plastic bags marked with recycling code #2 or #4, such as grocery or dry-cleaning bags (gather and place inside a single bag)
- ✓ Empty plastic containers, including narrow-neck bottles (such as water or soda bottles) and wide-mouth containers such as peanut butter, margarine tubs, yogurt, mayonnaise, prescription bottles, etc. (lids may be left on; containers must be empty)
- ✓ Glass food and beverage containers such as jars and bottles (lids may be left on; containers must be empty)
- ✓ Tin and steel food and beverage containers, such as pet food and vegetable cans
- ✓ Aluminum food and beverage containers (such as soda cans). “tin” foil and clean aluminum pie pans
- ✓ Empty aerosol cans

Items NOT Accepted for Curbside Recycling Include:

- ✗ Bagged recyclables! (Except for shredded paper or recyclable bags: only these items can be collected in bags.)
- ✗ Trash bags of any kind
- ✗ Low-grade paper, such as tissues and napkins/ paper towels (even if “clean”!)
- ✗ Soiled paper products (such as used paper plates or greasy pizza boxes)
- ✗ Waxed paper or boxes. (Run a fingernail across the surface, if wax comes off it is not recyclable. If it’s only glossy, not waxed, it is recyclable.)
- ✗ Metallic or glittery wrapping paper or cards
- ✗ Potato chip/ snack food bags, plastic or foil candy and food wrappers
- ✗ Bubble wrap
- ✗ Juice pouches
- ✗ Microwaveable disposable meal trays
- ✗ Thin, brittle plastics (like “clamshell” packaging from salad bars or Solo party cups)
- ✗ Disposable plastic cups, plates and cutlery
- ✗ Plastics without any recycling symbol/plastic resin ID code on them
- ✗ No polystyrene (Styrofoam™) of any kind
- ✗ Rubber or vinyl products (such as hoses, tires, shower curtains, PVC, etc.)
- ✗ Drinking glasses, ceramic plates
- ✗ Mirrors, window glass, light bulbs
- ✗ Pots, pans and other household metals (curbside recycling is meant to collect packaging metal only, such as cans.)
- ✗ Clothing and textiles
- ✗ Hazardous material containers (such as for pesticides, motor oil or antifreeze)
- ✗ **Any container that is not empty!**

Address:

9031 Reichs Ford Road
Frederick, Maryland, 21704

Phone:

301-600-2960

Email:

recycle@FrederickCountyMD.gov

