

Enjoy the Convenience of CURBSIDE RECYCLING

If you have curbside trash collection, you automatically have curbside recycling collection. Call your trash hauler to determine what day of the week is your recycling day. Trash and recycling collection is not a county service; Harford County has a subscription system.

Your trash hauler picks up your trash and recyclables, that's one reason for using blue or clear plastic bags for glass, plastic, aluminum and metal, and paper bags for paper - to differentiate between trash and recycling. The two should not be picked up together in the same vehicle at the same time. Should you observe this practice, contact your trash collection company to discuss this with them.

Use the blue, clear or white opaque plastic bags retailers give you to carry your purchases, or 13- to 30-gallon blue or clear bags can be purchased at area grocery and discount stores for placing glass, plastic, aluminum and metal containers together in the same bag. Paper items should be placed together in paper bags or cardboard boxes or bundled.

Why Should I Care About Recycling?

We've got to do something with all the garbage we create; recycling is one of the most important things an individual can do to be part of the solution. A family of four will produce an average of 1.5 tons of garbage a year. Harford County's solid waste management program involves four important steps: recycling, incineration of garbage, land disposal, and mulching or composting lawn and garden trimmings. Each step is a vital element in managing a smart solid waste program.

What Can I Recycle at Curbside?

Aluminum & Tin Cans: This includes all beverage and food cans. NO aluminum foil or pans. NO scrap metal of any type at curbside.

Glass Jars & Bottles: All food and beverage jars and bottles of all colors. NO caps or bottle tops. NO window glass, drinking glasses, ceramics or light bulbs.

Plastic Bottles & Jugs: Only bottles and jugs with #1 or #2 inside triangle on or near the bottom such as soda and detergent bottles, milk and water jugs. NO plastic wide-mouth food containers such as yogurt, margarine or peanut butter. NO dinnerware. NO containers with numbers 3 thru 7. NO motor oil bottles!

Rinse glass, plastic & metal containers. Place them together in blue, clear or white opaque plastic bags. The plastic bottles & jugs actually cushion the glass resulting in less broken glass. Following the Recycling Schedule, place at curb on weeks highlighted in blue.

Paper Products:

Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, unwanted mail, envelopes, paperboard boxes, telephone books, non-metallic gift wrap and flattened corrugated cardboard. NO food contaminated, waxed or laminated paper.

Place paper items together in paper bags, cardboard boxes or bundled. Flatten excess corrugated cardboard. Following the Recycling Schedule, place at curb on weeks highlighted in white.

It's Just Common Sense!

Making the most of our natural resources is an American tradition. Unlike landfills which simply stockpile trash, recycling removes waste completely and turns it back into useful products.

One of the direct benefits of recycling is energy conservation. *For example:*

Recycling glass lowers the melting temperature for new glass saving up to 32% of the energy needed for production.

Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television for three hours.

Making one ton of recycled paper uses only 60% of the energy needed to make a ton of virgin paper.

How Do I Get Started?

- Take a look at what's in your garbage. Are you throwing away aluminum cans, plastic bottles, newspaper and magazines?
- Keep it realistic. Don't try to recycle too many things in the beginning. If you've got a good system, then it will be easy to continue recycling. Don't expect too much and before long recycling will become a habit and you'll be doing it effortlessly.
- Keep recyclables in a convenient place. It could be in your garage, basement, under the sink, on the back porch, or in a closet. You may not need as much space as you think. You don't have to store all your materials in one place. Whatever works is fine, but keep it consistent so people in your household always know where to put their recyclables.

**Recycle! Make it a family effort.
Teach your children by example.**