

# How to RECYCLE

A Guide To Recycling In Delaware



**DELAWARE**  
**RECYCLES**  
*It's second nature.*





Fellow Delawareans

Universal recycling has begun in Delaware, which means it's easier than ever to recycle. More recycling in Delaware means we use our resources more efficiently; we can wait far longer to build more landfills, and we can even create jobs in the recycling industry.

A few key things to remember about universal recycling:

1. Whoever collects your trash must include recycling as part of your waste service and provide you a recycling container and collection. Recycling is optional under state law; however, we certainly encourage you to try it.
2. Universal recycling makes it easy. All recyclable materials accepted as part of the curbside service can go in one container – no sorting required. Many other materials and recyclable items can be recycled by dropping them off to recycling centers. Details are in this guide.
3. If you use a private waste hauler, different haulers charge different rates for trash and recycling. Compare prices and shop around to get the best deal.

The more Delaware recycles, the less trash we send to our landfills, and the less demand we'll have for future landfill expansion. This "How to Recycle" guide is a collaboration between our Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and the Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA). We hope you'll find it useful. Thank you in advance for recycling.

*Jack Markell*

Sincerely,  
Jack Markell  
Governor

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## Recycling containers and collection

Your waste hauler or municipality will provide you with an adequately-sized recycling container for the purpose of storage and collection of recyclables. Recycling collection services will be provided at least once every other week. Check with your waste hauler or your city/town office for available container options and pick-up schedules.



## Find a waste / recycling hauler

A list of Delaware licensed haulers offering Universal Recycling can be found by visiting the Delaware Solid Waste Authority website at [www.dswa.com](http://www.dswa.com), checking your yellow pages, or by calling DSWA at 800-404-7080. Waste haulers can provide you with waste and recycling services, rates, and pick-up schedules. Call them if you have specific questions about their services. For questions about the Universal Recycling Law go to [www.recycling.delaware.gov](http://www.recycling.delaware.gov) or call DNREC, Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances at 302-739-9403.



## Acceptable material for recycling:

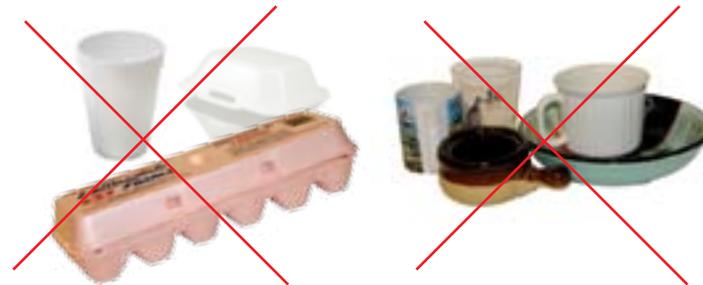
- |                      |                        |                               |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Plastic grocery bags | Juice boxes            | Envelopes                     |
| Plastic bottles/jugs | Aseptic containers     | Newspapers                    |
| PET ♻️               | Glass bottles/jars     | Junk mail                     |
| HDPE ♻️              | Aluminum cans          | Pizza boxes (no food residue) |
| LPDE ♻️              | Steel/Tin cans         | Boxboard (cereal boxes)       |
| Polypropylene ♻️     | Magazines              | Clean paper bags              |
| Mixed plastic ♻️     | Card stock egg cartons | Colored paper                 |
| Rigid plastic        | Corrugated cardboard   | White office paper            |

**Please empty and rinse out cans, bottles, and jars.**

## Unacceptable materials for single stream recycling:

- Anything with food residue or liquids
- Used aluminum foil or trays
- Styrofoam
- Clear plastic film wrap
- Waxed paper
- Plastic shell packaging

Check with your hauler for a list of acceptable items.



## Donate or purchase reusable household items:

Reusable clothing, furniture, small appliances, toys, automotive products, and building materials can be donated to charity or purchased for reuse. Check out the following websites for more information:

- [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)
- [www.habitat.org/restores/](http://www.habitat.org/restores/)
- [www.delaware.craigslist.org/](http://www.delaware.craigslist.org/)
- [www.goodwillde.org](http://www.goodwillde.org)
- [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org)

Consignment, thrift, and resale shops (check the yellow pages)



DSWA operates a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Program free for all Delaware residents. Events are held 10 months out of the year around Delaware. To find a current schedule of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events visit: [www.dswa.com](http://www.dswa.com).



## You can bring the following items to a HHW collection event:

- Product containers marked with words, "Warning: Hazardous," "Flammable," "Poisonous," "Corrosive" or "Explosive." See below for listing.
- Household Items: Full aerosol cans, bleach, chemistry kits, nail polish, polish removers, perfumes, disinfectants, drain cleaners, floor wax, mercury thermometers, moth balls, oven cleaner, spot remover, toilet cleaner, fluorescent light bulbs
- Explosives: Ammunition, firecrackers, gunpowder  
Workshop Items: Corrosives, paints (other than latex), small compressed-gas cylinders, solvents, stains, strippers, thinners, varnish, wood preservatives, fluorescent bulbs
- Yard/Garden Items: Fungicides, herbicides, pesticides, pool chemicals
- Automotive Materials: Antifreeze, auto batteries, degreasers, waste fuels - gasoline, kerosene, used motor oil mixed with other fuels



## Helpful tips:

- Bring materials in original, sealed containers. Do not mix products in one container.
- To prevent leakage or breakage, pack separately in absorbent material or triple bag.
- Bring rags to clean up any spills, and dispose of rags at the collection site.



## What's NOT accepted at HHW collection events:

- \*Friable asbestos: Disposal by appointment only at Cherry Island Landfill for a fee. Call 302-764-5385 for details.
- Non-friable asbestos: Accepted by appointment at all DSWA landfills for a fee.
- Unknown substances: Unknown items that are greater than 1 gallon or 8 pounds.
- Radioactive waste
- Latex paint: Water-soluble paint is not hazardous. Please solidify with kitty litter or sand. Also check with your garbage hauler to see if they will accept paint in solid form. 
- Used motor oil: Oil which has not been mixed with other fuels is accepted at specific DSWA Recycling drop-off centers, visit [www.dswa.com](http://www.dswa.com) to locate a center near you.
- Prescription medication: DO NOT FLUSH - as it may contribute to water pollution. For current information or questions regarding proper disposal of prescription drugs visit the U.S. Food and Drug Administration website at: [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov) and search "drug disposal."

*\*The hazardous friable asbestos is material which can be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure. This may include previously non-friable material which become broken or damaged by mechanical force; example: ceiling tiles.*

DSWA has an electronic goods recycling (EGR) program available to residents, schools, non-profit groups, public agencies, and businesses. Recycling electronic goods removes potentially hazardous materials from the waste stream and saves landfill space. Many retail stores that sell electronics may offer EGR take-back programs.

Some components of these electronic devices may contain pieces that if improperly handled could be harmful to the environment. Certain components may contain small amounts of lead, silver, barium, cadmium, and mercury. Many of these metals can be recovered and recycled by de-manufacturing and recycling of electronic devices.

## Drop-off locations for EGR

DSWA facilities have electronic goods recycling containers on site, which are open during normal operating hours. DSWA also holds special electronic goods collection events throughout the year. These events and collection containers are for the use of Delaware residents only, no businesses please. To find the nearest electronics recycling drop-off location or the next special event, visit: [www.dswa.com](http://www.dswa.com).



## Acceptable electronic goods for recycling:

### Computer components and/or parts

Personal computers	Monitors
Main frame computers	Keyboards
Mini computers	Mice
Terminals	Cables
Printers	Laptop computers
Notepad computers	Copying equipment
Notebook computers	Calculators
Electronic typewriters	

### Telecommunications equipment

Telephone systems	Terminals
Telephones	Telex
Facsimile	Pay telephones
Cordless telephones	Cellular telephones
Answering machines	

### Radio, television, electro acoustic radios

Televisions	Video cameras
Video recorders	Tape recorders
Audio amplifiers	VCRS
Cassette players	Record players
Radios	DVD players

### Small household appliances

Microwave ovens	Vacuum cleaners
Hand-held game systems	Video game systems
Electronic toys	Microwave ovens



Yard Waste is plant material resulting from lawn maintenance, gardening and landscaping activities and includes grass, leaves, prunings, brush, shrubs, garden materials, Christmas trees, and tree limbs up to 4 inches in diameter. These materials are valuable ingredients for the generation of mulch and compost and **cannot** be disposed of in your trash or in any DSWA landfill.



### Management options:

- Grasscycle by using a mulching lawn mower or purchase an inexpensive mulching blade and leave grass clippings on your lawn as free natural fertilizer.
- Manage your yard waste as compost or mulch on your own property.
- Take your yard waste to a drop-off facility. Several facilities accept yard waste throughout the state. Check out a list of options on the websites below.
- Hire a service to collect your yard waste. The service can be through your waste collector, a landscaper or garden center, or many other small businesses.
- For more information on yard waste recycling, composting, and management options visit: [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/yardwaste](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/yardwaste) and [www.dswa.com/programs\\_yard.asp](http://www.dswa.com/programs_yard.asp).



Use this tear-out section as a quick reference guide for what to place in your single stream recycling carts. Please place all items loose - not bagged - in your recycling cart to allow for easy collection and processing.





# Recycle these



Newspapers



Junk mail



Paperback books



Boxboard (cereal boxes)



Aseptic containers and cartons



Corrugated cardboard



Telephone books



Office paper



Rigid plastic



Yogurt and butter containers



Plastic bottles/jugs



Glass bottles/jars



Aluminum and steel / tin cans

## Not Accepted

**Keep these items out of your recycling cart or container:**

- Styrofoam
- Motor oil containers
- Chemical containers
- Ceramics or dishes
- Lightbulbs
- Window glass and mirrors
- Yard waste (see page 10)
- Food waste
- Televisions and computers
- Monitors (see pages 8 and 9)

Delaware Recycles, online at: [www.recycling.delaware.gov](http://www.recycling.delaware.gov)

Delaware Solid Waste Authority - 1-800-404-7080, or online at: [www.dswa.com](http://www.dswa.com)

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances, 302-739-9403 or online at: [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/whs/awm](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/whs/awm)

### **Additional resources:**

Additional information about recycling: [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com)

Recycling Public Advisory Council (RPAC): Provides advice and recommendations to DNREC and the DSWA on all aspects of recycling. Their website is the following: [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/whs/awm/info/pages/rpac.aspx](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/whs/awm/info/pages/rpac.aspx)

DNREC's Greener Delaware: Everything from the Annual beach grass planting to Yard waste information: [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/Pages/GreenerDelaware.aspx](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/Pages/GreenerDelaware.aspx)

DNREC Division of Energy and Climate: Energy saving tips for home and car, energy efficiency, renewable energy: [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/energy](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/energy)

Energize Delaware: Energy-saving solutions, home performance rebates, home energy audits: [www.energizedelaware.org/](http://www.energizedelaware.org/)

### **Special Events and Programs:**

Litter Prevention:

Adopt-a-Highway Program and Adopt-a-Bike Path Program

Imagine a Litter-Free Delaware Cleanup Day

Contact DelDOT for information about the above programs online at: [www.deldot.gov](http://www.deldot.gov) and search "Community Programs and Services"

Delaware Coastal Cleanup

Contact DNREC at: 302-739-9902 or online at: [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/CoastalCleanup/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/CoastalCleanup/Pages/default.aspx)

Loaner recycle carts are available for special events. Contact DNREC, Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances at: 302-739-9403.



Special waste can be defined as any waste material whose physical characteristics or chemical makeup may require special handling procedures, which may pose an unusual threat to human health, equipment, property, or the environment. While most special waste can be disposed of in landfills, it is preferable to keep these materials separate from regular trash and recycled through one of the following programs:

- Battery recycling
- Construction and demolition debris
- Ink and toner cartridges
- Prescription medication
- Scrap tires
- Used textiles
- Used motor oil
- White goods



## Battery recycling

Alkaline batteries: These can be recycled at many DSWA drop-off centers. To find the nearest acceptable location visit: [www.dswa.com](http://www.dswa.com) or call 800-404-7080.

Rechargeable batteries: These can also be taken to DSWA drop-off centers or may be recycled locally through a take back program: [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org). Nearest locations can be found online or by calling 877-723-1297.

They also accept cellphones.

Lead-acid (vehicle) batteries: These can be recycled at businesses that sell or replace vehicle batteries. The business may provide a small credit towards the purchase of a new battery. Vehicle batteries may also be dropped off at a DSWA HHW collection event.



## Construction and demolition debris

According to the National Association of Home Builders, about 78 percent of construction waste, by volume, is recyclable. For demolition and remodeling, builders can identify materials that can be reused or salvaged for donation or resale. Donate or purchase construction materials at Habitat for Humanity:

Sussex County: [www.sussexcountyhabitat.org/](http://www.sussexcountyhabitat.org/)

Kent County: [www.centraldelawarehfh.com/Donate.html](http://www.centraldelawarehfh.com/Donate.html)

New Castle County: [www.habitatncc.org/restore/index.php](http://www.habitatncc.org/restore/index.php)

Several businesses recycle separated materials such as clean concrete, asphalt, shingle scrap, wood, metals, and plastic. Search “demolition” and “recycling services” online or check the yellow pages. Construction and demolition materials mixed may also be taken to DSWA landfill sites. See: [www.dswa.com](http://www.dswa.com) for more information.



## Ink and toner cartridges

Contact your local hardware, home improvement, electronics, or office supply stores for recycling ink and toner cartridges. Many suppliers provide take-back programs for credit.

## Used textiles

DSWA provides containers for used clothing, shoes (pairs only), and textiles such as curtains and linens, at some of their recycling drop-off centers throughout Delaware. DSWA staff collects the materials and delivers it to Goodwill Industries for reuse or recycling. For drop-off locations that accept textiles visit: [www.dswa.com/programs\\_dropoff.asp](http://www.dswa.com/programs_dropoff.asp).



## Prescription medication

DO NOT FLUSH - For current information or questions regarding proper disposal of prescription drugs visit the U.S. Food and Drug Administration website at: [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov) and search "drug disposal."

The U.S. Department of Justice and Drug Enforcement Administration will receive unused or expired medication for safe disposal at their annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. For more information: [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov) and search "drug disposal."

## Scrap tires

DNREC's Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances has a scrap tire management program for quantities exceeding 100 tires. The program also includes scheduled drop-off days for Delaware residents with quantities of 10 tires or less. DSWA facilities also accept tires for a fee for recycling into tire derived fuel energy.

Old or used tires can be shredded or turned into chips to be reused in additives to asphalt for roads and for playground surfaces. Pulverized tire chips can be used in rubber flooring for equestrian and dog training centers and many other products.

For more information: [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/whs/awm/Info/Pages/ScrapTire.aspx](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/whs/awm/Info/Pages/ScrapTire.aspx) or call 302-739-9403.



## Used motor oil

Oil which has not been mixed with other fuels is accepted at specific DSWA recycling drop-off centers, visit: [www.dswa.com](http://www.dswa.com) to locate a center near you.



## White goods

Appliances such as air conditioners, refrigerators, and freezers called "white goods," that contain chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are first drained of CFCs for recycling. They are then sold with non-CFC white goods such as washers, dryers, and water heaters for scrap metal recycling. Search "scrap metals" online or check the yellow pages for a scrap metal recycler in your area. These items are also accepted for recycling at DSWA landfills or transfer stations for a fee. For additional information: [www.dswa.com/programs\\_bulky.asp](http://www.dswa.com/programs_bulky.asp).



**Question: What are the requirements imposed on waste collectors – either private hauling companies or cities and towns – by Delaware’s new universal recycling law?**

Answer: Under Delaware’s universal recycling law, waste collection service in Delaware, whether provided by a municipality or a commercial hauling service, will consist of (1) removal of trash for disposal in landfills and (2) collection of single stream recyclable items. Single stream recycling is a system where all traditional recyclables can be stored and collected in the same container – no separation of recyclables is required. This change started with single-family homes as well as restaurants and bars in September 2011, and will be followed by multi-family homes, like apartments, in January 2013, and then all commercial businesses will participate in recycling by January 2014.



**Q: Why is universal recycling in the best interest of Delawareans?**

A: Landfills in all three counties have had to undergo expansions that are costing residents and businesses tens of millions of dollars per year in higher disposal costs. Increased recycling saves land as well as reduces the cost of developing new landfill space in the future. Recycling also supports job creation through the collection and processing of recyclables and in the manufacturing of new products from the recycled materials. And the most efficient system for recycling – and the one that is the lowest cost for everyone – is the system in which everyone participates, hence the requirement that all waste haulers provide recycling services to their customers.

**Q: Why ban yard waste from landfills?**

A: Yard waste is a significant portion of the waste we discard and it is easily recyclable. Saving landfill space will help keep disposal costs down. Managing yard waste creates valuable products such as mulch or compost that are in demand for a wide variety of uses. Many outlets exist to recycle yard waste and individuals can even recycle it on their own property. We do not want to continue landfilling yard waste while importing mulch and compost products from other states.

**Q: What happens to my recyclables?**

A: Most materials collected in Delaware are dropped off at a DSWA transfer station and then taken to a materials recovery facility (MRF) for processing. The material is separated, baled, and sold by the processor as a commodity.

**Q: What will happen to DSWA drop-off centers?**

A: DSWA has no immediate plans to remove the drop-off centers. After a suitable period of time, DSWA will evaluate the productivity of drop-off centers and may remove unproductive sites. DSWA will continue to provide drop-off locations for items that cannot go in the single stream containers like textiles, oil filters, used motor oil, batteries and electronic goods.

**Q: My waste hauling rates may go up. Why aren’t all haulers charging the same rate?**

A: The cost for service each waste hauler establishes is an individual business decision. While the law does require the haulers to provide the recycling service, it does not require the waste haulers to charge for it and prices vary based on a variety of factors. If you are not satisfied with your price or service, contact your hauler. Many offer discounts or can tailor the service to better accommodate you. If you are still not satisfied, check with other haulers in your area. There are many options available.

**Q: If I cannot make it to a Household Hazardous Waste event can I put these materials into my household trash?**

A: While some items can be placed in with your household trash, DSWA recommends that these items be brought to a Household Hazardous Waste event for safe disposal.

**Q: What do I do with CFL (compact fluorescent lamp) bulbs?**

A: Drop off CFLs at a DSWA household hazardous waste collection day event; please visit: [www.dswa.com/programs\\_haz.asp](http://www.dswa.com/programs_haz.asp) or visit: [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/energy](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/energy) for a list of collection locations near you.



**Q: Why should I recycle electronic goods?**

A: Some components of these electronic devices may contain pieces that if improperly handled could be harmful to the environment and to human health. Certain components may contain small amounts of lead, silver, barium, cadmium, and mercury. Many of these metals can be recovered and recycled by de-manufacturing and recycling of electronic devices.

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DNREC Division of Energy and Climate: Energy saving tips for home and car, energy efficiency, renewable energy: [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/energy](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/energy)

Energize Delaware: Energy-saving solutions, home performance rebates, home energy audits: [www.energizedelaware.org/](http://www.energizedelaware.org/)

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