

Recycle these

Residential Curbside Recycling Guide



Paper

- Mail, office and school papers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspaper and inserts
- Phone books
- Shredded paper in closed paper bags
- Cardboard boxes
- Cereal boxes, cracker boxes, pasta boxes, cake mix boxes
- Shoe boxes, gift boxes and electronics boxes
- Boxes from toothpaste, medications and other toiletries

Glass

- Food and beverage containers and jars



Metal

- Food and beverage cans



Plastic

- Plastic bottles and jugs
- Water, soda and juice bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Ketchup and salad dressing bottles
- Dishwashing bottles and detergent jugs
- Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles



Don't recycle these



Paper

- Pizza boxes, egg cartons or boxes soiled with food
- Boxes from refrigerated or frozen foods
- Paper towels, napkins, cups and plates
- Gift wrap

Glass

- Drinking glasses, mugs, dishes, cookware, pottery and vases
- Window and mirror glass
- Containers that held hazardous products, such as nail polish and hobby paints

Metal

- Paint cans
- Aerosol cans
- Containers that held hazardous products, such as paint thinner and automotive fluids

Plastic

- Margarine, cottage cheese, cream cheese and other tubs
- Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups
- Microwaveable food trays
- Produce, deli and take out containers
- Plastic wrap and bags (Plastic shopping bags are recyclable at many local grocery stores.)
- Containers that held hazardous automotive and yard products, such as motor oil and pesticides
- Toys

Recycling preparation tips:

- Remove all caps, lids and pumps.
- Give containers a quick rinse.
- It's OK to leave the labels on.
- Do not place recyclables in plastic bags.

Recycling hints

Which boxes are recyclable?

Just remember this: If a box is kept in the cupboard, it is recyclable. If it goes in the fridge, freezer, or microwave, it is not.

The wax coating that makes refrigerator, freezer and microwavable boxes water-resistant is a problem in the recycling process. The glossy coating that is used on toothpaste, cereal, pasta and some cardboard boxes does not affect the recycling process.

Which plastic is recyclable?

Remember: Plastic bottles and jugs are recyclable.

The symbol on the bottom of a plastic container does not mean it is recyclable – it only tells you what type of plastic the container is made of. In Hennepin County, plastic bottles and jugs are collected curbside for recycling. However, plastic tubs and cups, such as yogurt cups, are not recyclable. These plastics contain different additives than bottles, and there is little demand for recycling these materials in our area. In the future, these materials may be added to recycling programs.



Hennepin County
Environmental Services
612-348-3777

www.hennepin.us/environment

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TDD/TTY 612-596-6985

Recycling resources

City recycling coordinators

Your city recycling coordinator is your point person for information on recycling. Visit www.hennepin.us, search: city recycling coordinators for a list of city recycling coordinators and their contact information.

Hennepin County drop-off facilities

Hennepin County operates drop-off facilities in Brooklyn Park and Bloomington that accept curbside-type recyclables for no charge. For more information, call 612-348-3777 or visit www.hennepin.us/dropoffs.

Hennepin County A to Z How-to-Get-Rid-of-It Guide

A searchable guide with disposal information for recycling, solid waste and household hazardous waste. Visit www.hennepin.us, search: A to Z.

RethinkRecycling.com

Your go-to guide for waste and recycling in the Twin Cities.

Apartment/condominium recycling

Contact your building manager for recycling program information. Property owners are required to provide occupants with the opportunity to recycle. Call your city recycling coordinator if this service is not available.

Recycling at work

To learn more about how to set up a recycling program at work visit www.hennepin.us/businessrecycling or call 612-348-3777.



Your go-to guide for waste & recycling in the Twin Cities.

Recycling myths unmasked

Myth: I don't generate enough recycling to make a difference.

You may be surprised, even in a single-person household the amount of material that can be recycled quickly adds up. About one-third of what is still thrown away could be recycled.

Myth: Recycling doesn't make that big of an environmental difference.

Recycling doesn't just save natural resources – it also saves energy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Plus, it's great for our economy. Minnesotans recycle over 2.3 million tons each year.

By recycling at home in 2008, Hennepin County residents:

- **Saved natural resources** equivalent to protecting 1,635 acres of forest.
- **Reduced greenhouse gas emissions** equivalent to taking 42,900 cars off the road annually.
- **Create Jobs:** Over 19,000 Minnesota jobs are involved with recycling
- **Reduce Our Taxes:** Each year, recycling generates \$64 million in Minnesota tax revenue.

Myth: Why recycle? It just gets thrown away anyway.

It is against state law for haulers to pick up recyclables and not recycle them. It is also against the law for a landfill or resource recovery facility to accept a load of recyclables.

