YOUR KING COUNTY
Residential Recycling Guide

These guidelines are for services by Waste Management in King County.

Please save and post for easy reference.

www.wmnorthwest.com/kingcounty
COLLECTION GUIDELINES

Place containers at curb by 6AM
- Two (2) feet apart with lids opening toward street
- At least three (3) feet from cars, trees and mailboxes, fences and utility boxes
- Please remove containers as soon as possible after collection.

Waste Management
Monday–Friday 7 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Our Customer Service Center is here to help:
- Missed collection
- Missing/damaged containers
- Sign up or change collection services
- Rates, billing and service information
- Bulky item pick-up service
- Construction/demolition containers
- Disabled service
- Información en Español

Weather Delay?
If weather conditions prevent safe collection, up to twice as much material will be collected at no extra charge on your next regular collection day for each container which was not emptied. No credits are issued for collection delays due to weather.

Visit [wmnorthwest.com/weatherboard](http://wmnorthwest.com/weatherboard) for information on weather-related service delays.
STEPS TO RECYCLING SUCCESS

Recycling is an easy way to keep valuable natural resources out of the landfill, _but recycling only works with your help._

To keep the recycling system healthy, follow these simple steps:

1. **Is it recyclable??** Check your King County Recycling Guide.
   
   Yes! It’s on the list! Proceed to Step #2

2. **Prepare your recyclables for a new life:**
   - Rinse or empty recyclables of all food and liquids
   - Separate newspaper from plastic delivery bag
     _Reused bags, discard in the garbage or bring back to a grocery store for recycling_
   - Remove plastic wrap and any packaging foam from cardboard
     _Place plastic wrap and foam packaging in garbage. Visit the Community Recycling Resources pages for foam reuse and recycling options_
   - Flatten boxes

3. **Do not put bagged recyclables into cart** — empty out recyclables into cart loose
   _Empty paper bags okay in recycling cart; empty plastic bags go in the garbage or back to a grocery store for recycling_

_Thank you for doing your part to recycle right!_

www.wmnorthwest.com/kingcounty 1-800-592-9995
WHY CAN’T I RECYCLE EVERYTHING?

Recycling starts when you put the **right** stuff in your recycling cart.

Just because you put something in a recycling bin, it does not mean it can be turned into something new. When the wrong stuff goes in the bin, staff at the recycling center have to remove these items by hand, and throw them in the garbage.

For a recyclable item to be made into a new product, **all of these things must be true:**

- **Preparation:** Each recyclable item must be clean and empty of all debris, food or liquids.
- **Separation:** A recycling facility must be able to separate the item into its own material group so each type of item — cardboard, aluminum, tin, steel, paper, glass, plastic containers — can be properly distributed to the correct manufacturers.
- **Markets:** A manufacturer must be willing to buy this material.
- **Manufacturing:** A manufacturer must be able to make a new product out of the recycled item.
RECYCLING MYTH BUSTERS

MYTH: All plastics can be recycled.
FACT: Not all plastics can be successfully recycled. At this time only some plastics can be made into new things. Recycle plastics by shape - bottles, jugs, dairy tubs and cups.

MYTH: A recycling symbol stamped on plastic means it is recyclable.
FACT: There are thousands of plastic products and packaging, and each one has its own unique chemical recipe. The number only tells us what the primary ingredient is in the plastic recipe. Many plastics cannot be made into new products at this time.

MYTH: It doesn’t matter if something belongs in the recycling — the recycling center will sort everything anyway.
FACT: False.
• There is a lot of garbage sent to the recycling center, and each non-recyclable item is removed by hand by trained staff.
• Garbage placed in the recycling increases the cost of the recycling process and will increase the cost of garbage and recycling service.

Garbage and Other Things We Find in the Recycling
• loose plastic bags
• hoses
• light bulbs
• needles
• toys
• hangers
• straws
• snack wrappers
• cleaning wipes
• food-soiled containers and paper
• non-recyclable plastic

We’re here to help!
When in doubt, check your Recycling Guide, call the Waste Management Customer Service Center or email recycling experts at recyclenw@wm.com.

www.wmnorthwest.com/kingcounty 1-800-592-9995
Waste Prevention is Even Better Than Recycling

- Buy locally produced items to reduce the amount of natural resources needed for shipping, packaging and transportation.
- Choose reusable items such as water bottles, cloth cleaning rags, shopping bags and rechargeable batteries.
- Use durable dishes, cutlery and napkins, instead of disposable paper or plastic.
- Carry your own travel mug, water bottle and cloth napkin.
- Reuse containers for storage.
• Buy bulk foods and other supplies to use less packaging.

• Shop at, and donate items to secondhand stores.

• Repair furniture and tools, rather than replacing.

• Rent, borrow or share infrequently used items such as trailers, power tools, ladders and lawn equipment.

See [www.wm.com/thinkgreen](http://www.wm.com/thinkgreen) for more ideas.
RECYCLING

Empty and clean all recyclables. Please do not place in bags – empty loose out of bags and boxes into your blue recycling cart.

**Clean paper**
- Newspaper, inserts
- Mail, envelopes
- Cereal and dry food boxes
  - *Remove liners*
- Paperback books
- Magazines, catalogs, phone books
- Non-foil wrapping paper
- Frozen food boxes
- Paper cups
- Juice boxes, milk, soy milk and broth containers
- Ice cream cartons

**Plastic bottles, jugs, tubs and cups**
- Milk, juice and soda bottles
- Yogurt, dairy and margarine tubs
  - *No lids*
- Shampoo and conditioner bottles
- Window, bathroom and kitchen cleaner bottles
- Detergent and fabric softener bottles
- Pill bottles
  - *No prescription vials*
- **NEW!** Plastic plant pots and 5-gallon buckets
  - *No soil*

Ignore the numbers, recycle plastics by shape!
Cardboard
Flatten all boxes
_Do not tie up_

Glass jars and bottles
Empty of all food or liquid
_Labels OK_

Aluminum and tin cans
Beverage cans
Metal food cans
_Labels OK_
_Lids in can, crimp shut_
Empty aerosol cans

Scrap metal and clean foil
Small non-working metal appliances, pots, tools
_Limit 2 ft. x 2 ft. x 2 ft., 35 lbs._
_No sharp or greasy metal_
_Ball clean foil together_

Recycling Tips
- Empty and rinse out all food residue. Labels do not need to be removed.
- Empty recyclables out of bags and boxes into the cart so they can be easily sorted at the recycling center.
- Extra recyclables? At no extra charge, place extra recyclables in a bin or cardboard box at the curb next to your recycling cart.

Aerosol cans that are not empty should be taken to a hazardous waste drop-off site. Visit lhwmp.org or call 206-296-4692 for details.

www.wmnorthwest.com/kingcounty 1-800-592-9995
COMPOST | FOOD SCRAPS AND YARD DEBRIS

These items go in your compost cart

No plastic, glass, metal, liquids, cooking oil or pet waste

Plants, flowers and yard debris

Houseplants
No pots

Grass clippings, weeds
Remove plastic twine, gardening tape or twist ties

Twigs, branches, roots from pruning

Leaves, tree branches
Under 4 feet long, 4 inches in diameter

Holiday trees
Cut trees into 4 foot sections

Jack-o-lanterns
Remove candles

Food scraps and leftovers

Fruit and vegetable scraps
Leftovers
Bread, pasta, grains and beans
Eggshells, nutshells
Coffee filters and grounds
Tea bags and tea leaves
Meat, fish, poultry, bones
Dairy products such as yogurt and cheese

Sign up for compost service by phone or online at wmnorthwest.com/kingcounty • 1-800-592-9995
Monday–Friday 7 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Uncoated paper
Greasy paper or pizza boxes
Food-soiled paper towels
Napkins
Shredded paper
Soiled paper containers

Uncoated non-shiny paper plates
Waxed paper, waxed cardboard
Paper bags
Approved compostable packaging
See cedar-grove.com/docs/cg_food_compostables.pdf

Be a Foodcycler! It’s easy to do!

1. A stylish compost pail.
2. A reusable kitchen container, such as an old pitcher.
3. A paper bag or an approved compostable bag.

Empty collected food scraps into your compost cart. Your compost cart will be picked up on your next collection day. Visit wmnorthwest.com/kingcounty for a list of approved compostable bags to use in your kitchen compost pail.

Extra Yard Waste: There is a charge for extra yard waste. Put extra yard waste in Kraft paper bags or 32-gallon containers with handles and lids (65 lb. limit); label “yard.” Use Kraft bags to store extra yard debris only. Food scraps and uncoated paper must be placed in the compost cart.

Did you know?
Food scraps and yard debris are processed into compost, sold locally at home and garden stores and used by local farms.

www.wmnorthwest.com/kingcounty 1-800-592-9995
GARBAGE
Bag all garbage and put in your garbage cart.

**Non-recyclable plastic**
- Foam take-out containers
- Foam packing peanuts
- Caps and small lids
- Empty motor oil and antifreeze containers
- Plastic plates and utensils
- Empty prescription vials
- Garden hoses
- Disposable diapers
- Hangers
- Straws
- Shiny snack wrappers, condiment packets
- Bows and ribbons
- Ziptop bags

**Non-recyclable glass**
- Mirrors, window glass
- Ceramics, dishes
- Incandescent and halogen light bulbs only
  - Fluorescent light bulbs and tubes need special disposal - see Hazardous Waste page

**Non-recyclable paper**
- Disposable wipes
- Hardcover books
  - **TIP**: Remove pages from the cover and recycle the paper
- Foil wrapping paper
- Dirty paper and plates
- Facial tissue
- Shredded paper
  - **TIP**: Can be placed loose in compost cart

Donate hardcover books to a local charity or school.
Other garbage
Cold ashes
Vacuum bags and dust
Broken office supplies
Pet waste, cat litter
Clothing, cleaning wipes
Toys
Blister packaging

Bag plastic bags and bring them back to the grocery store.

Non-recyclable metal
Caps, lids
Less than 3 inches in diameter
Empty oil containers
Empty latex paint* cans
Remove lids; dried, hardened paint okay
Sharp or greasy metal
Clothes hangers
Small non-working plastic appliances
Microwaves, coffee makers, etc.

Garbage Guidelines
Please:
• Bag all garbage.
• Double bag pet waste, pet litter, packing peanuts, vacuum dust, sawdust and cold ashes.

EXTRA GARBAGE
Garbage charges are based on cart size. There is a charge for extra garbage that doesn’t fit in your cart with the lid closed. If your garbage cart lid is open more than 6 inches, there will be a charge for extra garbage.

Bulky items such as mattresses, large appliances and building materials can be picked up by special arrangement for a fee.

*Latex paint is no longer considered hazardous waste. It can be placed in your garbage if it is solidified first. Mix in cat litter, shredded paper, sawdust or paint hardener. Once paint no longer flows, leave the lid off the can, bag it and place it in your garbage container.
Free Hazardous Waste Disposal

Household Hazardous Waste are accepted at four fixed collection sites in Seattle and King County. The Wastemobile travels to many communities in King County to provide residents with a place to take their household hazardous waste on a periodic basis.

Accepted items:

- Aerosol Cans *(if not empty)*
- Antifreeze
- Automobile Products *(antifreeze, brake fluid, gasoline, oil filters; do not mix motor oil with other oil or automotive fluids)*
- Automobile Batteries *(Limit 5 car batteries)*
- Furniture Stain
- Gasoline *(30 gallon gasoline limit)*
- Glue, Instant Glue, Rubber Cement
- Household Cleaners
- Hobby Chemicals

TVs & Computers

TVs, monitors, computers, laptops and e-readers are banned from disposal and can be recycled for free. Visit ecyclewashington.org or call 1-800-RECYCLE for more recycling locations and details.

Electronics

Electronic equipment such as printers, cell phones, stereos, CD/DVD/VCR players and household electronics should be properly recycled. Visit takeitbacknetwork.org or call 206.296.4466 for more recycling locations and details.

Medication

Return unwanted or expired medication to keep your home and environment safer.

Fluorescent Tubes & Bulbs

Compact fluorescent lights and tubes can be recycled at a variety of locations.

Visit thinkgreenfromhome.com (1-800-592-9995), takeitbacknetwork.org (206-296-4466) or pse.com/cflrecycle for locations and details.

Also accepted at the Auburn SuperMall Wastemobile *(limit 10).*

Batteries & Cell Phones

Recycle rechargeable batteries and cell phones at a variety of electronic, office supply and building supply stores.

Many items with these words on the label are considered hazardous. These items cannot be placed in the garbage, recycling, yard waste or poured down the drain. Empty containers can be placed in garbage. Please properly dispose of unwanted household hazardous waste.

Visit takeyourmeds.org for locations and details on the types of medication accepted.

Needles & Sharps
Used needles and sharps are dangerous in the garbage because they can injure sorters and spread disease.

Free drop-off programs are listed online: kingcounty.gov/whatdoidowith. Mail in programs are also available: thinkgreenfromhome.com/SyringesAndLancets.cfm

For your safety and that of others:
Do not mix products
Keep products in original containers
Label products not in original containers
Secure products so they won’t leak

Visit kingcounty.gov/whatdoidowith, thinkgreenfromhome.com (1-800-592-9995) or call2recycle.org (1-877-723-1297) for locations and details.

Used Motor Oil
Auto Parts Stores: Most auto part stores will accept used motor oil for recycling. Call ahead for quantities and restrictions.

Not accepted: latex paint, empty containers, TVs, computers, tires, electronics, explosives, medicine and garbage.

More information and quantity restrictions:
lhwmp.org - 206-296-4692
hazwastehelp.org
COMMUNITY RECYCLING OPTIONS

Many items are recyclable, but don’t belong in the curbside recycling cart. Here are some recycling options for a variety of materials. Please contact businesses for current rates, hours and restrictions.

Plastic Bags
Clean plastic bags, dry cleaning bags and other types of film plastic can be recycled at most grocery stores. Visit plasticbagrecycling.org for locations and information.

Used Cooking Oil
Used cooking oil can be recycled into biodiesel. Pour cold oil into containers with tight-fitting lids, and drop-off at cooking oil collection stations.

- General Biodiesel
  6333 1st Ave. S,
  Seattle, WA, 98108
  206-932-1600

Clothing & Household Goods
Second hand stores and clothing banks will accept clothing and household goods in reusable condition.

Online Materials Exchange
Reusable household items can be sold or given away. Try posting a free ad. You will be amazed at what other people might want.

- The Freecycle Network: freecycle.org
- Craigslist: seattle.craigslist.org
- 2Good2Toss: 2good2toss.com
- Industrial Materials Exchange: lhwmp.org
Foam Blocks and Packing Materials
Most mailing stores (such as UPS stores) accept clean packing peanuts for reuse.

Other Items
COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL RECYCLING DATABASES
- “What Do I Do With...?” Recycling Database
  206-296-4466
  kingcounty.gov/whatdoidowith
- Washington State Recycling Database
  1-800-RECYCLE (732-9253)
  1800recycle.wa.gov

MORE COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Looking for Reusable Products?
The South Seattle Household Hazardous Waste facility and Wastemobile will provide free products to the public. Household products are made available that other King County residents have turned in, including: oil-based paint, stain and primer oil-based paint, stain and primer; wood care products; cleaning products (e.g., bleach, toilet cleaner); automotive products (e.g., oil, antifreeze, car wax). Residents will need to fill out and sign a release form prior to receiving any materials. For more information: Hazwastehelp.org

For additional drop-off locations visit www.generalbiodiesel.com/
COMMUNITY RECYCLING OPTIONS

Bulky Materials

Bulky item collection service is available through Waste Management for a fee. Please call 1-800-592-9995 for rates for specific items and to schedule a pick-up.

Appliances

- your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/wdidw/
- Pochels Appliance Center
  33029 Pacific Hwy S
  Federal Way
  253-517-3162
- A Plus Recycling
  116 Clay St NW #B1
  Auburn
  253-737-4441
- Jaco Environmental
  Pick up only
  800-414-5072
  jacoinc.net

In general, King County does not accept major appliances for disposal because they can be recycled or reused.

Some appliances, such as refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners, also contain chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which are regulated under the federal Clean Air Act. These items cannot be disposed and should be recycled. Recycling these appliances helps ensure that CFCs and other refrigerants are safely removed for recycling or disposal and are not released into the atmosphere.
Porcelain, Concrete & Brick
Concrete, brick and asphalt can be recycled for a fee. Call ahead for fees and restrictions.

- **A Plus Recycling** (porcelain only)
  116 Clay St NW #B1
  Auburn
  253-737-4441
  aplusremovalandrecycling.com

- **Lloyd Enterprises** (no porcelain)
  80 5th Ave
  Milton
  253-874-6692
  lloydenterprisesinc.com

- **Renton Concrete Recyclers**
  500 Monster Rd SW
  Renton
  206-772-2278
  rentonconcreterecyclers.com

Scrap Metal

- **Schnitzer Steel**
  1902 Marine View Dr
  Tacoma
  253-572-4000
  schnitzersteel.com

- **Valley Recycling /Rusty Rack Guys**
  312 W Valley Hwy S
  Pacific
  253-833-5431
  rustyrackguys.com

Window Glass

- **CDL Recycle**
  7201 Marginal Way S
  Seattle
  206-763-2002

Check out King County’s Eco-Cool Remodel Tool at ecocoolremodel.com.