



Frequently Asked Questions and Facts about Residential Recycling in Frederick County

Top Questions

⇒ *Question: When will the program be expanded to new areas?*

Answer: On March 30, 2009 the County will begin distributing recycling carts and program information to households in areas that have not previously had curbside service. The distribution will begin in the southern regions and progress throughout the county during the months of April and May. This marks the first time in the history of the residential recycling program that every single-family home in the County will be offered curbside service!

⇒ *Question: How do I get more information or questions answered?*

Answer: The County has contracted Allied Waste Services as its residential recycling program curbside service provider. They are able to answer questions and address service concerns by phone: 301-694-6498, or email: frederickrecycles@republicservices.com. Additionally, there is much information about the County's residential recycling program available online by visiting: www.co.frederick.md.us/recycle.

Collection Carts and Their Use

⇒ *Question: What if I want a larger or smaller recycling cart?*

Answer: Residents are encouraged to try the cart they have been provided for a month; if another size is needed, the cart may be exchanged for either a smaller 35-gallon or a larger 95-gallon model. These requests are made by calling Allied Waste Services at 301-694-6498 or by sending email to frederickrecycles@republicservices.com.

⇒ *Question: What if I do not want a recycling cart?*

Answer: We hope that residents will try using their new recycling cart, but also recognize that these containers may not be appropriate for all households (such as residences with very long driveways, or for individuals who may not be able to physically handle a cart.) If a resident would like to return their cart, they may place their request by calling Allied Waste Services at 301-694-6498 or by sending email to frederickrecycles@republicservices.com.

⇒ *Questions: Why didn't I get a cart when everyone else on my street/block got one?
What if no one on my street has gotten a cart?*

Answer: From March 30 through May 30 carts are being distributed to single-family homes that have never had curbside service before. If other homes in your immediate area have been given carts, and after several days you have not received one, please call the County Office of Recycling so that we may assist you in obtaining a cart.

⇒ *Question: Can the carts be towed behind or hauled in vehicles?*

Answer: The carts are the property of Frederick County Government and should not be used in a manner which could lead to their damage or destruction.

⇒ *Question: Will the cart be very heavy once it's full?*

Answer: The design of the new carts provides leverage to assist maneuvering. Many residents have found this makes using a cart easier than lifting a filled 18-gallon bin or box of recyclables.

⇒ *Question: How can I keep recyclables from blowing out of my cart?*

Answer: Try not to overfill the cart as doing so keeps the lid from closing all the way. Excess recyclables may be placed next to the cart in another container, and you may request a larger recycling cart. The cart should be set on a hard level surface if possible. On stormy days, or if you live in a windy area, a brick or stone may be used to weight the lid.

⇒ *Question: Can I place recyclables in plastic bags—inside or outside of my cart?*

Answer: No. Unlike garbage, recyclables get processed after collection. Single stream recycling means that you do not have to sort your recyclable materials at home—but they do get sorted. Your recyclables are taken to a materials recovery facility where both human and automated sorters separate the various commodities. This can only happen if the recyclables are loose

⇒ *Question: What happens if the cart at my house becomes damaged or lost?*

Answer: Please call your curbside service provider, Allied Waste Services, at 301-694-6498, or send email to frederickrecycles@republicservices.com. Each household may receive one replacement cart per year at no cost to them, unless it is determined that carts are being used in a manner that is destructive or inappropriate.

⇒ *Question: Why does the cart I was provided have a code on it?*

Answer: The new carts (like the older 18-gallon bins) are the property of Frederick County. Each cart has a bar code linking it to a specific street address. If you move to another location, the cart stays at its assigned residence and you will use another container at your new address. The cart's bar code will be scanned each time your recyclables are collected. This allows us to gather information about participation rates for our recycling program. It also allows us to track the recycling collection process on any given day, anywhere in the County, and can help in addressing possible service issues.

⇒ *Question: Are you tracking my recyclables?*

Answer: No. The code is used only to record whether or not any particular cart has participated in curbside collection. We will know whether or not we collected from a particular cart and when, but not what or how much was in it.

Collection Schedule

⇒ *Question: How will I know when my recycling will be picked up?*

Answer: A collection schedule has been provided, either by mail or with your cart when it was issued. If you need another copy, it can be viewed or printed from the County website: www.co.frederick.md.us/recycle or can be obtained by calling your curbside service provider, Allied Waste Services, at 301-694-6498.

⇒ *Question: What if I have more recyclables than my cart can hold before my next pick-up day?*

Answer: You can place excess materials next to the cart in a paper bag, cardboard box or plastic tote. If you regularly produce more material than your cart can contain, you may wish to contact Allied Waste Services to request a larger cart.

Single Stream Recycling

⇒ *Question: What does “single stream” mean?*

Answer: Simply put, you can mix all of your recyclable bottles, cans, papers and cardboard into one single container, no sorting required.

≈ Question: *What if I live in an apartment or condominium complex? Can I recycle?*

Answer: At this time curbside service is provided only for single-family homes. Residents who live in multi-family dwellings may recycle by taking their materials to one of the twelve drop-off locations throughout the County. The locations—and directions to them—are listed on the County website: www.co.frederick.md.us/recycle. These residents may also inquire of their property manager if their trash hauling service also offers collection of recyclables.

≈ Question: *If I work from home, can I recycle waste from my home office?*

Answer: If the building is your residence and you have curbside trash service (not a dumpster-collected service) your home office may participate in curbside recycling.

≈ Question: *Can businesses participate in curbside recycling?*

Answer: The County does not provide collection of waste or recyclables for businesses. Business owners are encouraged to contact their trash hauler to discuss options for recycling—and they may even save money by doing so.

FACTS ABOUT RECYCLING:

- Funding for Frederick County's recycling programs comes from two sources: tipping fees charged for bringing waste to the landfill facilities and the System Benefit Charge assessed to all properties. No general fund tax dollars are used.
- 41% of the waste generated in Frederick County was recycled in 2007. This means that 255,456,780 pounds of material were diverted from the waste stream and recycled that year.
- The Board of County Commissioners have set the goal of a 60% waste diversion rate by 2024.
- Each American citizen produces an average of 4.5 pounds of trash per day. The United States has 5% of the world's population but uses 25% of its natural resources. (E.P.A., 2002)
- The energy needed to replace all the aluminum cans wasted each year is equivalent to 16 million barrels of oil—enough to keep a million American cars on the road for a year. For every six aluminum cans thrown away, the same energy is wasted as if one can full of gasoline had been poured out and wasted. (Container Recycling Institute, 2001)
- Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 17 mature trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 3 cubic yards of landfill space, 2 barrels of oil and 4,100 kilowatt-hours of electricity — enough energy to power the average American home for five months. (E.P.A., 2008)
- Every ton of recycled steel conserves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal, and 120 pounds of limestone. (Steel Recycling Institute, 2003)
- Americans trash more than 270 million beer and soft drink bottles each day. A 1999 survey by the Solid Waste Coordinators of Kentucky found that 54% of all collected litter consisted of beverage containers, carriers and bottle caps. (Container Recycling Institute, 2001)
- Americans use some 14 billion plastic shopping bags each year, an average of 425 bags per person. (ABC News, 2003)



Frederick County's Curbside Recycling Program



In the single stream recycling program, all recyclable items may be mixed together, *and* more types of items may now be recycled!

Recyclable Items Now Include:

- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspapers (including all inserts)
- Junk mail and envelopes
- Non-metallic wrapping paper
- Paperboard boxes (such as cracker and cereal boxes without liners)
- Corrugated cardboard
- Books (including paperbacks, hardbacks and telephone books)
- 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)
- Brown paper bags
- Milk cartons (paper or plastic) and juice boxes
- Plastic bags, such as grocery bags (gather and place inside a single bag)
- Glass food and beverage containers such as jars and bottles
- Tin and steel food and beverage containers, such as pet food and vegetable cans
- Aluminum food and beverage containers
- Aluminum foil and aluminum pie pans
- Empty aerosol cans
- 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.

Not Accepted for Recycling:

- Soiled paper products (such as paper plates, tissues, greasy pizza boxes)
- Waxed paper or boxes
- Metallic wrapping paper
- Hazardous material containers (such as pesticides, motor oil or antifreeze)
- Microwaveable disposable meal trays
- Plastic “clamshell” packaging (such as from salad bars) and molded plastic retail packaging
- Polystyrene (Styrofoam™)
- Large plastics, such as furniture, coolers, etc.
- **Any container that is not empty!**

