Recycling guide

**Paper**
- Mail, office and school papers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspapers and inserts
- Paperback books

**Boxes:**
- Cardboard
- Cereal and cracker boxes
- Shoe and gift boxes
- Toothpaste, medication and other toiletry boxes

**Cartons**
- Milk cartons
- Juice boxes
- Soup, broth and wine cartons

**Glass**
- Food and beverage bottles and jars

**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

**Cups and containers:**
- Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups
- Clear disposable cups and bowls
- Margarine, cottage cheese and other containers
- Produce, deli and takeout containers

**Metal**
- Food and beverage cans
- Aluminum foil and trays
- Decorative tins and pie tins

**Preparation instructions**

Items should be clean and empty – give them a quick rinse before recycling.

Don't bag your recyclables – place them loose in your recycling cart.

Don't crush cans, plastic bottles or cartons.

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**Recycle smart**

Know what goes in your recycling cart

The best way to support recycling is to recycle the right stuff. Putting items in your recycling cart that aren't accepted can interfere with the recycling process, damage equipment, harm workers and ultimately result in things not getting recycled.

If you aren't sure an item can be recycled, contact the city or put it in the trash.

**Keep these items out of your recycling cart**

- **Plastic bags and film:** These items get tangled in the equipment at sorting facilities and interfere with the recycling process. Bring to a retail drop-off to be recycled.

- **Large plastic items:** Plastic lawn furniture and toys are difficult to sort at recycling facilities and there aren't good markets for recycling them.

- **Random metal items:** Pots, pans, pipes, hangers, tools and other random metal items can damage equipment and harm workers at sorting facilities. Scrap metal can be recycled, just not inside your recycling cart.

- **Batteries:** Batteries can cause fires in recycling trucks and at sorting facilities. Bring batteries to a Hennepin County drop-off facility in Bloomington or Brooklyn Park to be recycled.

- **Bags of recyclables:** Don’t put your recycling in bags. Recyclers can’t tell what’s in the bag, so your items won’t get recycled. Place recycling loose in your cart.

- **Paper cups and plates and plastic utensils and straws:** These items are often contaminated with food, are difficult to sort at recycling facilities and don’t have good recycling markets. Avoid them by opting for reusable items.

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St. Louis Park Public Works

www.stlouispark.org/recycling

952.924.2562
Why should I participate?

By participating in the organics program, your food scraps and certified compostable products will be turned into compost – a valuable resource that improves soils, reduces soil erosion and decreases the need for chemical fertilizers.

How to sign up

Residents with the city’s solid waste service can sign up by visiting www.stlouispark.org/organics or call utility billing at 952.924.2111. The city provides compostable bags, a wheeled cart and weekly collection at the curb or alley.

Multifamily residents who do not receive city solid waste service can sign up to participate at one of several city operated drop-sites. Visit www.stlouispark.org/MFrecycling for more information.

Tips

Lose the liquids and keep it cool

When collecting organics in your kitchen, remove excess liquids before placing them in the bag. Liquids sitting in a compostable bag will weaken the bag. Also, allow warm foods, coffee grounds and tea bags to cool before placing them in the bag.

Don’t overfill bags

The heavier the bag, the more likely it will tear. Letting organics sit in the bag for longer will weaken the bag, so make sure to take it out at least once per week and follow the tips above for reducing liquids. Also, take your organics out when the bag is about two thirds full, as it’s easier to tie.

Use a vented container to help control odors

Air flow helps reduce odors. Purchase a kitchen pail with a vented lid or make your own by reusing an empty plastic or metal container (ice cream pails or coffee containers work well) and cutting slits in the lid.

All food

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, fish and bones
- Dairy products
- Eggs and egg shells
- Pasta, beans and rice
- Bread and cereal
- Nuts and shells

Certified compostable products

- Compostable paper and plastic cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers

Food-soiled paper

- Pizza boxes from delivery
- Napkins and paper towels
- Paper egg cartons

Other compostable household items

- Coffee grounds and filters
- Facial tissues
- Hair and nail clippings
- Cotton balls and swabs with paper stems
- Houseplants and flowers
- Tea bags
- Wooden chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks

Not accepted: Yard waste • diapers • menstrual products • animal and pet waste, litter or bedding • cleaning or baby wipes • grease or oil • Styrofoam™ • dryer lint and dryer sheets • recyclable items (cartons, glass, metal, paper, plastic) • frozen food boxes • paper ice cream tubs • microwave popcorn bags • gum • fast food wrappers • products labeled “biodegradable”

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