



What to Recycle with NYC Dept. of Sanitation

http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycwasteless/html/recycling/recycle_what.shtml

Recycling is one of the simplest and most effective ways you can [reduce your carbon footprint](#).

The requirements detailed below apply to all NYC [residences](#), [schools](#), [institutions](#), and [agencies](#) serviced by the [Department of Sanitation \(DSNY\)](#) EXIT.

Have questions about what to do with a specific residential item, use our "[How do I get rid of...](#)" feature.

If your location is serviced by a private carter for garbage collection, see the recycling requirements for [commercial businesses](#). If your site's garbage is collected by DSNY but you elect to use a private carter for your recyclables, you must comply with certain [reporting requirements](#).

What to Recycle: Mandated Materials

- ▶ [paper and cardboard](#)
- ▶ [beverage cartons, bottles, cans, metal & foil](#)
- ▶ [bulky items](#)
- ▶ [fall leaves](#) (for certain districts)

Collection, Containers, and Promotional Materials

- ▶ [when to recycle and missed collections](#)
- ▶ [recycling containers & decals](#)
- ▶ [promotional materials](#)
- ▶ [nyc's recycling game](#)

More Info

- ▶ [recycling symbol](#)
- ▶ [how to recycle in nyc video](#)
- ▶ [also see](#)



What and How to Recycle with Sanitation: **PAPER & CARDBOARD**

- newspapers, magazines, catalogs
- white and colored paper (lined, copier, computer, staples OK)
- mail and envelopes (any color, [window envelopes](#) OK)
- paper bags
- wrapping paper
- soft-cover books, telephone books (paperbacks, comics, etc.; no spiral bindings)
- cardboard egg cartons and trays
- smooth cardboard (food and shoes boxes, tubes, file folders, cardboard from product packaging)
- corrugated cardboard boxes (flattened and tied)



Place all paper recyclables together in CLEAR bags, or in any bin labeled with GREEN [recycling decals](#) or marked "MIXED PAPER". Or place in the white dumpster for paper recycling, if your building has one.)



Flatten and bundle large pieces of corrugated cardboard and tie with sturdy twine, or break into small pieces to place in your recycling bin or bag. (Or place loose in the white dumpster for paper recycling, if your building has one.)

See how you can [reduce your junk mail](#).

Don't include the following with your paper recycling:

- hardcover books
- napkins, paper towels, or tissues
- soiled paper cups or plates
- paper soiled with food or liquid
- paper with a lot of tape and glue
- plastic- or wax-coated paper (candy wrappers, take-out containers, etc.)
- photographic paper

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What and How to Recycle with Sanitation: **BEVERAGE CARTONS, BOTTLES, CANS, METAL & FOIL**

- milk cartons & juice boxes (or [any such cartons and aseptic packaging](#) for drinks: ice tea, soy milk, soup, etc.)
- plastic bottles & jugs [only](#)
- glass bottles & jars only
- metal cans (soup, pet food, empty aerosol cans, dried-out paint cans, etc.)
- aluminum foil wrap & trays
- household metal (wire hangers, pots, tools, curtain rods, [knives](#), small appliances that are mostly metal, [certain vehicle license plates](#), etc.)
- bulk metal ([large metal items](#), such as furniture, cabinets, large [appliances](#), etc.)

Empty and rinse containers before recycling. Place all together in CLEAR bags, or in any bin labeled with BLUE [recycling decals](#) or marked "BOTTLES & CANS".

Remove caps & lids. Place METAL caps & lids in the recycling bin; put plastic caps & lids in the garbage.

Wrap knives or similar sharp metal objects in cardboard (such as a piece of cereal box) and secure with tape. Label the package "CAUTION: SHARP" and place with other designated [metal, glass, plastic recyclables](#). For Home Sharps/Hypodermics, see [Household Medical Wastes](#).

Place [bulk metal](#) next to recycling bins or bags.

Call 311 before discarding [appliances that contain CFC gas](#).

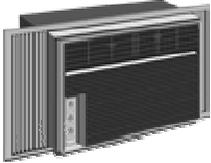
5¢ deposit: Bring deposit bottles and cans back to the store for refunds.

Don't include the following with your bottle and can recycling:

- [plastic items other than plastic bottles & jugs](#) (such as deli and yogurt containers; plastic toys, cups, wrap, etc.)



- any glass items *other than glass bottles & jars* (mirrors, lightbulbs, ceramics, glassware, etc.)
- Styrofoam (cups, egg cartons, trays, etc.)
- [batteries](#)
- [plastic bags](#)



If item is in good condition, see [reuse it nyc](#) for reuse options.

What and How to Recycle: BULKY ITEMS

Furniture and appliances that are predominantly metal and are too big for your recycling container or clear bag (such as washing machines, metal filing cabinets, box springs, or water heaters) should be placed beside the recycling container on your regular [Recycling Day](#) EXIT.



Before discarding appliances containing CFC gas or freon (such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, or dehumidifiers), you must schedule an appointment to place the item at the curb for CFC recovery. You can make an [appointment](#) EXIT on the Sanitation website or call 311. For safety reasons, the law requires doors to be removed from refrigerators and freezers before placing at the curb.

Non-recyclable trash that is too big for your garbage container or bag (such as mattresses, lumber, or debris from small construction or garden projects) may be placed at the curb on any regular garbage [collection day](#) EXIT.

The Department of Sanitation will collect up to six bulk items from one address. For more information, see [bulk collection](#) EXIT on the DSNY website. There are special regulations for [wood from trees](#) and for [mattresses](#) EXIT.

For info on how to handle TVs and other broken electronics, see [electronics recycling](#).



For info on how to donate reusable furniture and other goods, visit [NYC Stuff Exchange](#) EXIT.

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Recycling Containers and Decals

The NYC Department of Sanitation does not supply bins or bags for recyclables (or refuse). Rigid containers can be used for recycling as long as they are 18-32 gallon capacity, have lids, and are properly labeled. Plastic bags for recycling must be CLEAR, 13-55 gallon capacity. See [where to buy recycling bins](#).

- ▶ [outdoor containers and decals](#)
- ▶ [indoor containers and decals](#)

OUTDOOR CONTAINERS AND DECALS

(for setout at the curb for DSNY collection)

Label containers on both sides and the lid with Department of Sanitation decals, or permanently marked in letters at least 4" high:

RECYCLING: MIXED PAPER (green decal)

RECYCLING: BOTTLES, CANS & FOIL (blue decal)

Decal application is most effective when decal is applied during temperatures between 40° and 50°F to a surface that is dry, clean, and smooth.



To request free decals to label containers for Department of Sanitation recycling collection:

- use [DSNY Literature/Decal Request Form](#) EXIT (for small quantities)
- use [NYC recycle more, waste less request form](#) (for large quantities)
- call the NYC Citizen Service Center at 311

Request new decals when fading/peeling occurs.

INDOOR CONTAINERS AND DECALS

(for internal collection of recyclables)



Apartment buildings, city agencies, schools, and other organizations receiving DSNY collection service can request sets of blue and green indoor decals to label indoor recycling containers placed in common areas.

These decals are for indoor use only, since they are too small and not durable enough for outdoor use.

To request free decals to label indoor recycling containers:

- use [DSNY Literature/Decal Request Form](#) EXIT (for small quantities)
- use [NYC recycle more, waste less request form](#) (for large quantities)
- call the NYC Citizen Service Center at 311

Recycling Symbol

Many residents are confused about what to recycle because so many products display the universal recycling symbol (three chasing arrows), primarily as a marketing tool (see more information on [plastics resin codes](#)). Each city chooses what they can recycle based on local factors. Manufacturers, however, do not tailor product labeling for each local program, thus, confusion.

Do not place items in your recycling containers just because the package displays a recycling symbol or other recycling information. Always check your local program for what can and cannot be recycled where you live. In NYC, refer to the [what to recycle lists](#) above to decide what to put into recycling containers.

The Sustainable Packaging Coalition has developed a new [“How2Recycle” label](#) to help take the mystery out of product label claims. The “How2Recycle” label incorporates the recycling symbol to help consumers understand what products and packaging can and cannot be recycled where you live, and reminds you to always check your local program for details.

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