

Recyclers' Corner



August 2009 Issue

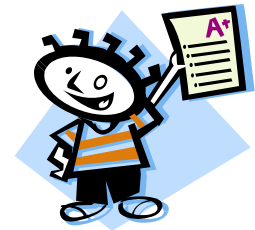
[Editor's Note: Recyclers' Corner is a periodic news column sponsored by Denver Recycles, a program of Denver Public Works/Solid Waste Management. It includes updates on seasonal and ongoing activities related to the City and County of Denver's recycling programs. Editors are invited to publish all or part of the column; however, we request that you run major edits by our staff to ensure accuracy of the information. Questions may be directed to Charlotte Pitt or Tom Strickland at Denver Recycles, 720-865-6815.]

The A,B,C's of Back to School Recycling

A new school year is approaching and there's no better time to start thinking about how you and your family can recycle and reduce waste. Below are some great ideas on how to lessen your impact on the environment and still have a fantastic school year:

RECYCLE & REDUCE WASTE

- **Buy notebooks, folders and writing paper made from recycled paper.** When shopping look for products made from "recycled paper" or "recycled-content paper." Try and get the brands with the highest percentage of recycled content, such as brands marked "Made from 100% recycled post-consumer recycled paper." It is important to buy products made from recycled material so we can help to "**Close the Recycling Loop.**" By selecting products made of recycled content material you will be supporting residential recycling programs and their associated markets.
- Consider shopping at **thrift stores and consignments shops** for back to school clothes. In Denver, we are lucky to have a variety of retail options selling almost-new clothes at much lower prices than new clothes.
- **Reuse empty plastic tubs** for storing pencils, paper clips or other small items needed on hand for school projects.
- **Recycle school papers** such as old homework and tests in your Denver Recycles purple cart. *Each ton of recycled paper can save 17 trees.*
- Pack lunches in **reusable containers** instead of disposable plastic bags or plastic wrap. If reusable containers are not an option, try wrapping sandwiches in aluminum foil, which you can recycle in your Denver Recycles purple cart.
- **Avoid buying single-serving, non-recyclable food items** such as juice boxes, individual chip bags and cereal variety packs. You can also cut down on wasteful packaging and by buying items in bulk.
- Don't waste paper! **Write and print on both sides.** Set your computer and printer to "double-sided" as the default option so documents automatically print double-sided. Printing double-sided handouts, reports and tests can dramatically reduce paper use, which saves nature AND saves money. *Did you know that the average American uses 650 pounds of paper per year?*
- **Collect scratch paper for reuse.** Start saving one-sided print jobs in a box, file or basket and use these papers for scratch paper when doing math problems, taking notes or completing art projects.
- Instead of buying bottled water for lunches and field trips, **pour drinks in a reusable, durable water bottles or thermoses.**
- Donate bulk amounts of items such as CD cases, cork, wire, block foam, fabric to **Resource Area For Teaching (RAFT) Colorado.** RAFT transforms surplus materials into hands-on learning activities for students. For more information on RAFT call **303-548-2587** or visit online at **www.raftcolorado.org**.



For more information on Waste Prevention or other Denver Recycles programs, please call 3-1-1 or visit **DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles**.

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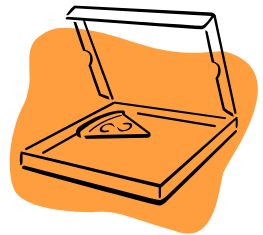
Recycling Myth Busters: Learn the Truth.

Part 8 of 12

There are a lot of myths about recycling passed along from person to person. We are here to explain some of those myths, so you can be the best recycler possible.

Myth: Some one told me pizza delivery boxes cannot be recycled.

FALSE. Pizza delivery boxes can be recycled in the Denver Recycles purple carts. Pizza boxes that have the food remains scrapped out and have a minimum amount of grease soaked into the cardboard can still be recycled. However, pizza boxes soiled with grease and food debris should not go in the purple recycling carts. Heavily soiled pizza boxes can be composted in your backyard compost bin (cut them up first) or through the Denver Composts pilot collection program.



Remember, even if the bottom of the pizza delivery box is contaminated with grease or food, you can still rip off the top of the box and recycle that part in your purple cart.

Thanks for doing your part and recycling all that you can! Questions: please contact us by calling **3-1-1** or visiting us online at **[DenverGov.org/Denver Recycles](https://denvergov.org/denver-recycles)**.

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