

YOUR GUIDE TO **EASY** RECYCLING





RECYCLING IS ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS YOU CAN HELP PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

About Denver Recycles

Denver Recycles is a program of Denver Public Works/Solid Waste Management and our mission is to provide residential recycling collection services to residents, reduce the volume and toxicity of solid waste disposed, and **encourage environmentally responsible purchasing and disposal habits** among Denver residents in their homes, at work and at school.



YOUR EFFORTS HELP TO:

- Reduce trash sent to landfills
- Save natural resources
- Save energy
- Reduce pollution and greenhouse gases
- Create jobs
- Save money



DENVER RECYCLES

Follow us on



Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper

NEVER FORGET YOUR COLLECTION DAY AGAIN

Sign up today for electronic service reminders at
[DenverGov.org/RecyclingReminder](https://denvergov.org/RecyclingReminder)

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:



(Front of cart)

FOR YOUR SAFETY

- Do not climb on or in the cart.
- Do not let children play around the cart.
- Do not tilt or move the cart with the lid open.
- Do not use a broken cart. Call for a replacement.

- **Set the cart out by 7 a.m. on your collection day in the set out location noted on the cover of this booklet.**
- Make sure the cart does not block access to your neighbor's gate, garage, driveway or property.
- Store the cart on your property in between collection days. Do not store the cart in the alley or on the street.
- Place only acceptable recyclable materials in the cart. **NEVER PLACE PLASTIC BAGS IN THE CART.**

- Prevent litter by not overfilling the cart and keeping the lid closed.
- Note that the cart remains the property of the City and County of Denver. The City reserves the right to remove any recycling cart that is used improperly. Improper use includes: trash in the cart, a cart left in the public right-of-way (including the alley), abuse or destruction of the cart, and other uses deemed inappropriate by the City.
- Contact the City prior to moving and leave the purple cart behind for use by the new residents.

ALLEY COLLECTION



Place the cart on the side of alley with the front of the cart facing into the alley. The cart should be at least 2 feet from trash containers and other obstructions such as utility poles.

CURB COLLECTION



Place the cart in front of your property with its wheels against the curb and front facing the street. Do not set it on the curb or grass. The cart should be at least 2 feet from trash containers and other obstructions such as vehicles and driveways.

 **Thank you for recycling.**



Call **311** (720-913-1311) or visit DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles for information on where to place carts on **street sweeping days**.

RECYCLE THESE MATERIALS IN YOUR PURPLE CART: **CONTAINERS**

» Empty Containers. Remove & Discard Caps and Lids. Do Not Flatten. «

Aluminum Cans, Foil & Pie Plates



- ♻️ Remove as much food residue as possible.

Glass Bottles & Jars



- ♻️ Food and beverage glass only.
- ♻️ Large metal lids can be recycled, but must be removed from bottle or jar.

Steel Cans & Aerosol Cans



- ♻️ Aerosol cans must be empty.

Food & Beverage Cartons



Products commonly packaged in cartons include:

- ♻️ Milk (dairy, soy and almond)
- ♻️ Juice
- ♻️ Soup, broth and wine
- ♻️ Protein drinks and juice boxes
- ♻️ Ice cream and frozen yogurt

Plastics



Rigid plastics marked with a number ♻️ through ♻️:

- ♻️ Milk jugs
- ♻️ Soda and water bottles
- ♻️ Detergent and cat litter jugs
- ♻️ Shampoo bottles

- ♻️ Yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese and butter tubs
- ♻️ Peanut butter and mayonnaise jars
- ♻️ “To-go” plastic drinking cups
- ♻️ **Plastic** trays like those used for microwave dinners
- ♻️ “Clamshell” containers like those used to package berries and baked goods

RECYCLE THESE MATERIALS IN YOUR PURPLE CART: **PAPERS**

» Remove & Discard Plastic Films and Bags. «

Corrugated Cardboard



- ♻ Flatten and cut cardboard into pieces no larger than 2 ft. x 2 ft.
- ♻ Only broken down boxes inside the cart will be collected for recycling.

Office Paper & Junk Mail



- ♻ Limit shredded paper and place in a closed paper bag labeled "shredded paper."

Paperboard



- ♻ Cereal and soda boxes, paper towel rolls, paper egg cartons, etc.
- ♻ Flatten all paperboard.

Newspaper, Magazines & Catalogs



- ♻ Remove plastic bags.

Paper Bags



- ♻ Remove food wrappings and food.

Phone Books



- ♻ Remove and discard magnets.

DON'T PUT THESE ITEMS IN YOUR PURPLE CART

- NO** Garbage
- NO** Bubble wrap or envelopes with bubble wrap inside
- NO** Candy or food wrappers
- NO** Ceramics
- NO** Microwave popcorn bags

- NO** Paper cups or plates
- NO** Plastic bags
- NO** Plastic shrink wrap
- NO** Plastic tubes, such as toothpaste tubes
- NO** Styrofoam® of any kind

- NO** Toys
- NO** Waxed cardboard
- NO** Plastic containers marked as "Compostable" or "PLA"



CARDBOARD RECYCLING



IF YOU'RE NOT PUTTING IT IN YOUR PURPLE CART, THEN YOU'RE NOT RECYCLING IT.

Denver residents have proven they are great recyclers. However, we are still throwing away more than 29,000 tons of valuable recyclable paper each year with much of that being cardboard.

You can ensure that your cardboard gets recycled by doing the following:

1. Place all cardboard inside your recycling cart as instructed.

With Denver Recycles' automated collection system, **only materials inside the purple carts can be lifted up by the mechanical arm and emptied into the top of the recycling truck.** Cardboard and other materials left outside of your cart cannot be collected for recycling.

2. Flatten and break down all boxes into pieces no larger than 2 ft. x 2 ft. To ensure

that you recycle all the cardboard you can, please follow our simple guidelines for recycling boxes:

- ♻️ Ensure cardboard lies flat in your cart so that it doesn't take up usable space; or

- ♻️ Leave cardboard out of your cart until your recycling day. Then lay it flat in the cart on top of the rest of your recyclables and close the lid. This will help to ensure that recyclables don't get stuck in the cart and will enable you to fit more cardboard in your recycling cart.

Flatten and break down cardboard boxes.



Lay flattened cardboard at the top of your cart and close the lid.



The automated arm lifts and empties the cart at the top of the truck.



RECYCLING DIRECTORY

LEARN WHERE TO RECYCLE
JUST ABOUT ANYTHING



Recycling in our city goes beyond what you can put in your purple cart. Denver is lucky to have many great retailers, non-profits and companies that allow the public to drop off items for reuse, recycling or composting.

Visit DenverGov.org/RecyclingDirectory to find drop-off locations for more than 100 different categories of materials including things like automotive fluids, latex paint, construction and building materials, books, hangers, CD cases and much more.

BUY RECYCLED



In order to truly make recycling work, we must help “close the loop” by purchasing products made from recycled materials. Since many everyday products contain some recycled content, buying products made from recycled material has gotten much easier. For example, birthday cards, cereal boxes, toilet paper, printer paper and even some toys contain recycled content. Since the recycling symbol alone does not denote recycled content, look for language on the product packaging that specifies recycled content, such as “made from 30% post-consumer recycled content”, to ensure you are buying products made from recycled materials.

Reduce & Reuse for Less Waste

Making less waste doesn't just mean recycling. In fact, the best way to reduce waste is to not even create it in the first place. In some cases, this means reducing the amount of disposable items that you purchase and reusing and repairing products that you already have. For many people, incorporating durable, reusable items into their daily routine is a great way to break wasteful habits.



Reusable Shopping Bags

Both disposable paper and plastic bags have negative impacts on the environment and create waste. The best choice is to bring your own bag whenever possible. Most grocery stores will also give you a discount for each reusable bag you use.



Reusable Water Bottles

It takes more than 17 million barrels of oil per year to produce the plastic for the bottles we use, yet only a fraction of plastic bottles in the U.S. get recycled. Avoid unnecessary waste by filling your own bottle with tap water.



Reusable Travel Mug

Since paper cups are not accepted in Denver's recycling program, skip the paper to-go cup and opt for using a reusable stainless steel or porcelain mug instead. And as a bonus, most coffee shops will give you a discount for using your own mug.

More information on how to reduce your waste is available at DenverGov.org/Reduce-Reuse.

Compost Yard Debris & Food Scraps

Yard debris and food scraps, also known as organic waste, make up more than 50% of what Denver residents send to the landfill. Instead of trashing those valuable materials, please take advantage of the seasonal compost programs that Denver Recycles offers.



Learn to Compost Classes

Composting is good for your yard and garden, good for the environment, fun and easy to do! For a complete schedule of **classes offered May through October**, visit DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles. To register for classes, call Denver Urban Gardens at **303-292-9900** or visit **DUG.org/Compost**. Participants must register one week in advance so proper staffing can be arranged.



Denver LeafDrop

Responsibly dispose of your leaves each Fall by bringing them to one of our LeafDrop drop sites. "Disposing" of leaves in the street is illegal in Denver and is also a waste of an important resource. All leaves collected at our LeafDrop sites are composted, and that compost is then made available for purchase at Denver's annual Mulch Giveaway and Compost Sale. Free weekday drop sites are open from October through December with **weekend drop sites typically open during the first three weekends in November**.



Treecycle

Denver residents can give their holiday trees a second life by recycling them through our Treecycle program. **Set your holiday tree out for collection during specified weekends in early January** in the same location where your trash is picked up. All trees collected through the program are chipped into mulch which is made available to residents at Denver's annual Mulch Giveaway and Compost Sale.



Mulch Giveaway & Compost Sale

Pick up free mulch produced from Treecycle and purchase discounted compost made from leaves collected during LeafDrop at **this one-day event on the first Saturday of May**. This is a great way to save money on your landscaping upkeep, and the mulch and compost will help your soil retain moisture and provide nutrients to your soil and plants.



Compost Collection Services

Organic material is the single largest item that is thrown away by Denver households and accounts for more than 50 percent of what is taken to the landfill. As a way to reduce the amount of organic material in our landfill, the Denver Composts program will continue to expand services.

The Denver Composts program is a **fee-based service** that collects residentially generated organic materials like yard debris, food scraps and non-recyclable paper in a green cart on a weekly basis. The materials are taken to a commercial facility that turns it into a soil amendment known as compost.

To find out if your home is located within the current compost service area, to enroll in our compost service, or for more program information, call **311** (720-913-1311) or visit DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles.

Grasscycling:

More and more Denver residents are taking their recycling efforts one step further by skipping the time-consuming task of bagging clippings and are instead leaving them on the lawn after mowing. Grasscycling is the natural way to recycle grass clippings and can provide your lawn with the valuable nutrients and moisture it needs without any additional costs to you.

How to Grasscycle:

1. Mow your lawn when it's dry and keep your mower blades sharp.
2. Follow the "one-third rule" – mow your lawn often enough so that no more than one-third of the length of the grass blade is cut and left on the lawn. Lawns are most healthy when mowed at 2.5 to 3 inches.
3. No special mower is needed. Simply remove the mower collection bag to allow clippings to drop on the lawn. If your mower does not have a safety flap covering the opening where the bag fits into the chute, then it is important that you purchase a retrofit kit from your hardware store.
4. If you use a landscape service, ask them to leave the clippings on your lawn.
5. Watch your lawn thrive!

SAFELY DISPOSE OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

MAKE YOURS A HEALTHY HOME



Toxic household products can be harmful to pets, wildlife, sanitation workers, our health, and the environment if poured down the drain, toilet or storm sewer, or placed in the trash. You can properly dispose of and recycle toxic products from your home through Denver's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program.

EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTED ITEMS

- ▶ Automotive fluids
- ▶ Insecticides & herbicides
- ▶ Caulk & grout
- ▶ Paint
- ▶ Cleaners & drain openers
- ▶ Pesticides
- ▶ Fertilizers
- ▶ Solvents & thinners
- ▶ Fluorescent bulbs
- ▶ Stains & varnishes
- ▶ Glue adhesives
- ▶ Hobby chemicals

Visit DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles or call **311** for a list of retail drop sites for latex paint, batteries, automotive fluids and compact fluorescent lights.

SCHEDULE A COLLECTION

- ▶ Call **1-800-HHW-PKUP**
- ▶ Minimum of three different item types or 25 pounds of one item is required for a collection
- ▶ Collections for paint only not offered
- ▶ One collection permitted per calendar year
- ▶ \$15 copayment due at time of collection

To learn more call **311** (720-913-1311) or visit DenverGov.org/HHW

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING



Disposing of electronic waste in your trash can, cart or dumpster is against State law. Electronics contain a variety of harmful toxic substances that when discarded can pose risks to our health and environment. Denver Recycles offers resources like an E-cycle coupon and special collection events to assist you with recycling your unwanted electronics. There are also a number of local retailers and recyclers that can safely recycle your e-waste. Call **311** (720-913-1311) or visit DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles to learn more.

FREE Appliance Collection & Recycling!



Recycle appliances containing Freon, such as refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners as well as metal appliances such as washers, dryers, kitchen stoves and hot water heaters for free. To learn more and schedule an appliance collection at your home, please call **1-800-479-4159** or visit ecoprojex.com/denver-pick-up.

OTHER SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Trash Collection:

Denver Solid Waste Management picks up trash weekly from eligible residential properties. To find out about your service, visit DenverGov.org/Trash or call 311.



Graffiti Removal:

To report graffiti or get involved with prevention, visit DenverGov.org/Graffiti or call 311.



Keep Denver Beautiful:

For information on how you can get involved with a community improvement project, visit DenverGov.org/KDB or call 311.