

Updated Guidance on Recycling for Village Residents

Recently several E&E Committee members, along with Board and Village staff, went to the facility that processes the Village's recycling to learn more about how it's handled and what changes in recycling practices might be warranted in light of changing markets for recycling waste. Below are some updated guidelines that residents are encouraged to follow.

1. First and foremost, **NO WISH CYCLING**. Only put items that you know can be recycled into the Recycling Bin. And remember the three "R"s: **Reduce first, Reuse/Repair**, and finally **Recycle, in that order**. Try to avoid single use anything.

2. **No Plastic Bags!** They are the biggest hindrance in the automated sorting process and can gum up the works, taking machines out of service or requiring labor intensive sorting. Plastic bags can be taken to Safeway and other locations for processing or disposal. Contrary to popular belief, only a small percentage of this single use plastic can be effectively recycled. Much of it escapes into the environment, contaminating stream banks, waterways and food webs. [See the below photo of plastic bag contamination at the recycling station.]

3. No Soiled Materials

Do not put heavily soiled/contaminated material in the recycling bin since those have to be removed manually. Soiled items should go in the trash. Minimally soiled containers (less than 5% contamination) are ok, but bottles and cans should be rinsed. Greasy pizza boxes go in the trash.

4. Specific guidance on plastic, paper, metal and glass items that can go into blue recycling totes appears below. A table with more details is below for further reference.

■ Plastics

Plastic bottles and containers labeled 1-2 are the most valuable; plastics # 3-7 are accepted but must be sent to specialized processors, so less desirable. Clear clamshells labeled #1-2 are okay. No need to flatten.

DO NOT PUT Styrofoam, packing peanuts or other plastic-based packaging material in the bin.

■ Cardboard boxes

Flatten cardboard boxes and remove plastic tape/cellophane from packaging before putting into the recycling bin.

Paper and thin cardboard

NO greasy or dirty paper products; no boxes lined with foil, metal or plastic
NO paper/plastic combinations like mailing envelopes with bubble-wrap inside

■ Metal:

Only (rinsed out) food cans, aluminum foil and foil pie pans; wire hangers, and empty steel aerosol cans. Other scrap metal are accepted at the Shady Grove Transfer Station and can be collected under the Village's Special Pick-Up Program (call or schedule online to arrange a pick-up).

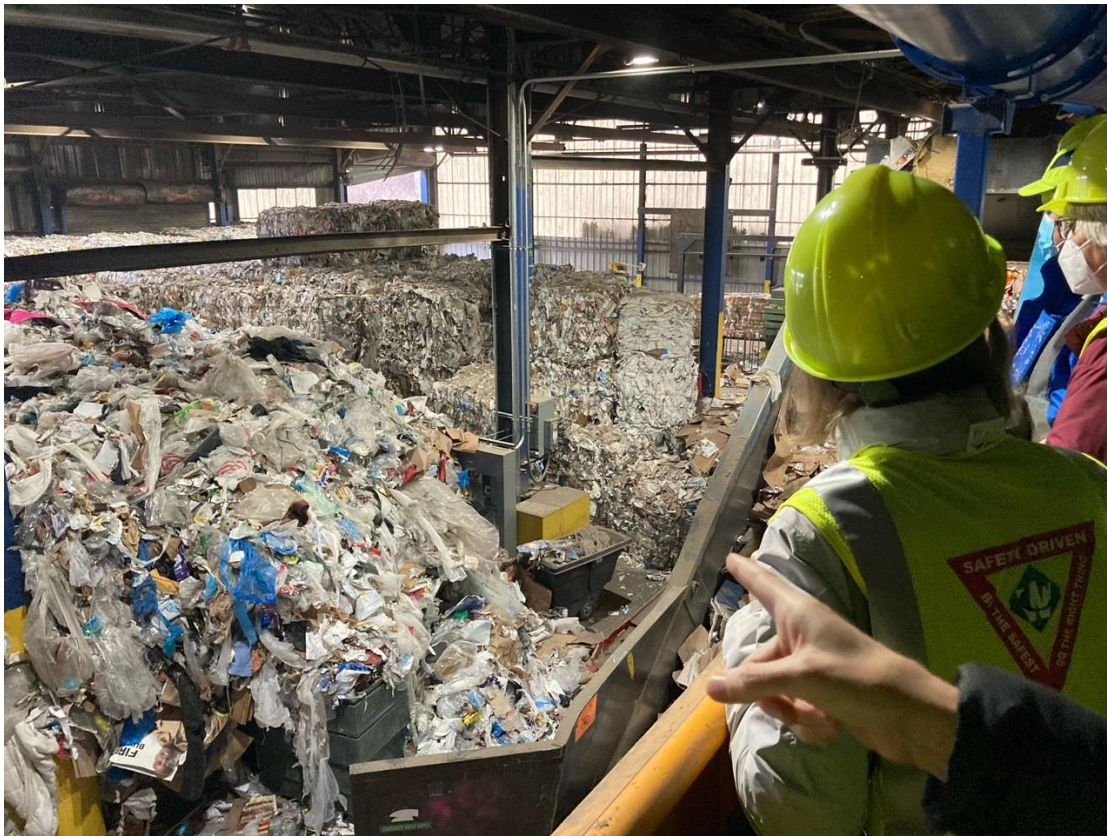
■ **Glass:**

Not of much value but unbroken jars and bottles accepted and passed along to specialty processors. Remove tops and dispose of separately in trash.

Dispose of all other types of items appropriately. Small scrap metal, soiled paper, plastic or other non-recyclable items can go directly in the trash. Containers with hazardous waste are eligible for a Hazardous Waste Pick-Up (third Wednesday of each month) by the Village (call or schedule online to arrange a pick-up). Electronics, batteries or small appliances can be taken to the Transfer Station in Montgomery County for recycling or safe disposal.

The website Earth 911 offers information on recycling and environmental news and tips for disposing of materials not accepted by our recycling contractor:

https://search.earth911.com/?utm_source=earth911header



Plastic bag and other contamination at the Olive Street Processing Station



Single Stream Recycling Guidelines



Recycling Chart

What to Recycle

Do Not Include ANY items contaminated by food are not acceptable for recycling

Mixed paper



- Examples include:
- Mail and envelopes (windows are OK)
 - Magazines and catalogs
 - Writing or ledger paper
 - Paperback books
 - Paper bags
- Greeting cards
 - Wrapping paper
 - Shredded paper (Place in paper bag)
 - Fax paper
 - Computer paper

- Mixed paper items not acceptable include:
- Candy wrappers
 - Waxed or plastic-coated paper
 - Paper towels, facial tissues, napkins
 - Cigarette packs
 - Wrapping tissue paper
 - Foil wrapping paper

Thin cardboard



Newspapers (including all ads and inserts)



- Examples include:
- Shoe boxes
 - Cereal boxes
 - Pasta boxes
 - Toilet paper rolls
 - Frozen food boxes
 - Gift boxes
- Cake mix boxes
 - Toothpaste boxes
 - Tissue boxes
 - Paper egg cartons
 - Soda or beer packaging
 - Soap or laundry detergent boxes

- Thin cardboard items not acceptable include:
- Boxes with silver or foil coatings
 - Anything dirty, greasy or plastic-coated

Remove Plastic Shipping Tape

Corrugated cardboard



- Boxes and other corrugated cardboard should be flattened and folded so they fit in the cart.
- Pizza boxes (with greasy liner removed)

- Corrugated cardboard items not acceptable include:
- Dirty or greasy cardboard

Tin/aluminum, scrap metal



- Examples include:
- Aluminum and tin cans
 - Foil and pie plates
- Wire clothes hangers
 - Empty steel aerosol cans

- Tin/aluminum, scrap metal items not acceptable include:
- Scrap metal
 - Paint cans
 - Hypodermic needles (Please contact the Health Department for proper disposal information)

Glass bottles and jars



- Examples include:
- Mayonnaise jars
 - Wine bottles
 - Beer bottles
 - Applesauce jars
- Spaghetti sauce jars
 - Salsa jars
 - Vinegar bottles
 - Baby food jars

- Glass bottles and jars not acceptable include:
- Broken glass
 - Cups, dishes, glass windows, plates, Pyrex®, ceramics, mirrors, light bulbs, crystal

Plastic bottles, jugs and containers



This includes all rigid plastic containers with symbols through on the bottom; examples include:

- Soda and juice bottles
 - Salad dressing bottles
 - Milk jugs
 - Detergent bottles
 - Juice bottles
- Shampoo bottles
 - Window cleaner
 - Saline solution bottles
 - Fabric softener or bleach bottles

- Plastic bottles, jugs not acceptable include:
- Plastic shopping bags
 - Plastic food wrap, potato chip and sandwich bags
 - Styrofoam®
 - Automotive fluid bottles (oil, antifreeze, brake fluid)

Rinse Food From Plastic No Plastic Bags!!!

Milk cartons, drink boxes



- Examples include:
- Milk and juice cartons
 - Juice boxes
- Flavored milk boxes
 - Cream and creamer containers

- Milk cartons, drink boxes items not acceptable include:
- Ice cream boxes
 - TV dinner containers
 - Margarine boxes
 - Cream cheese boxes

Container preparation

- Remove all plastic bags.
- Remove any non-acceptable items.
- Corrugated cardboard should be broken down so it fits inside the container without jamming, so the cart will empty completely.

- All containers (jars, bottles, cartons, etc.) must be rinsed and free of all contaminants.
- Remove and discard all corks, tops, rings, metal bottleneck wraps, and unacceptable items.
- Flatten containers whenever possible.

Minimally Soiled Objects Are Recyclable

• • • • Reduce, Reuse/Repair, Recycle IN THAT ORDER • • • •

Table courtesy of the Town of Chevy Chase.