

Washington dc recycling guide

DC Municipal Recycling

In DC, There are many things you can put in your recycling bin, and some things you cannot. Here is a guide to what you can and cannot recycle here in DC:

GLASS

YES	Rinsed and Empty glass food and beverage containers should be recycled. Lids and labels can stay on.
NO	Dishes, light bulbs, fluorescent bulbs*, windows, mirror glass or glass cookware. They melt at a different temperature from glass bottles. Please recycle fluorescent bulbs at Greater Goods or at the Hazardous Household Waste drop-off at the Benning Road Transfer Station.

METAL

YES	Rinsed and Empty tin, aluminum and steel food and beverage cans; lids and labels can stay on. Clean aluminum pie plates and foil. Aerosol cans. Do not crush metal containers.
NO	Auto parts, kitchen supplies, bicycles, and furniture.

PLASTIC

YES	Empty, narrow-necked bottles (plastic codes 1 through 7). These include water, soda, milk, juice, and detergent bottles. Lids and labels can stay on. plastic bags, wide-mouthed containers, rigid plastics (large toys, jugs, laundry baskets, lawn furniture, butter tubs, yogurt cups, medicine bottles). To save space, flatten the bottles.
NO	Bottles from automotive products, pesticides or other toxins. Foam products (e.g. cups, peanuts, trays), plastic food wrapping, food/computer product clamshells.

PAPER

YES	Drink containers: paper-based egg and berry cartons are okay, if clean. Tetrapak containers, e.g. Juice, wine, milk (with multiple layers of material and/or pour spouts) Mixed papers: Recycle all papers together including white and colored papers, envelopes, forms, file folders, tablets, junk mail, cereal boxes, wrapping paper, catalogs, magazines and phone books. It is okay to include metal staples, clips, glue, labels, and plastic windows on envelopes. Please remove plastic bindings and dividers from documents. Photos are okay, but not "instant" film (eg. Polaroids). Newspaper: All inserts that come with the newspaper can be recycled. Put them loose into the cart. Please remove internal plastic baggies (e.g. ad sections). Cardboard boxes and brown paper bags: Remove packaging, then flatten and place in cart or bin. Shredded Paper: For residents shredding their outgoing fiber
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(usually for information security concerns), paper bagging is advised, but not recommended for any other reason.

NO	Plastic-based foam egg cartons, Clamshell berry containers, Plastic coated (laminated) paper, blueprints, waxed cardboard, cups/plates, tissues, paper towels, or "instant" film (eg. Polaroids) and food contaminated paper.
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FORBIDDEN ITEMS

Carpet/upholstery
Carry-out containers
Clothing
Diapers
Furniture/toys
Hardback books
Cookware, kitchen appliances or utensils
Leaves/dirt
Pizza boxes
Wire hangers

DC HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE/E-CYCLING DROP-OFF SITE

DPW now provides weekly Household Hazardous Waste/E-cycling collections for District residents on **Saturdays** at the **Benning Road Trash Transfer Station, 3200 Benning Road, NE, 8 am to 3 pm.** The District also offers the metropolitan area's first permanent weekly **document shredding service** for residents.

Accepted Household Hazardous Waste includes: ***Leftover cleaning and gardening chemicals, small quantities of gasoline, pesticides and poisons, mercury thermometers, paint, solvents, spent batteries of all kinds, antifreeze, chemistry sets, automotive fluids, and asbestos tiles, fluorescent light bulbs, polishes, and moth balls.***

Unacceptable items: ***Ammunition, bulk trash, wooden TV consoles, propane tanks, microwave ovens, air conditioners and other appliances, as well as radioactive or medical wastes.***

Residents can also e-cycle end-of-life consumer electronics, including ***audio-visual equipment, televisions, VCRs, cell phones*** and home office equipment such as ***computers, computer parts, printers, photocopiers and fax machines.*** These machines will be broken down into their component parts (plastic, glass, toxic metals) and recycled or disposed of safely.

Please go to the [DPW Website](#) for more information.

