



# Curbside recycling guide

## Single cart recycling program for Thurston County

### Save money and the environment

Curbside recycling in Thurston County provides an easy way to save money and protect the environment.

Simply place all your recyclables, except glass, in the comingled recycle cart and wheel it out to the curb. Your glass goes in a separate container that you provide.

Recycling can actually help lower your garbage bill. By making less garbage, you may be able to reduce the size of your garbage can or the frequency of your garbage collection service.

### Quick tips

- Make sure items are recyclable before placing them in the cart.
- Rinse food waste and other contaminants from your recyclables.
- You do not need to remove labels, staples, envelope windows, or sticky notes.
- Place glass in a separate container – do not mix with other recyclables. Glass is collected in customer-supplied bins that are between 5 and 20 gallons in size. Drill drain holes to prevent your container from filling with rain water. Glass containers with water in them may not be collected.

### When in doubt, leave it out

If you are unsure which items go in your recycle cart, the rule of thumb is “When in doubt, leave it out.” When recyclables are contaminated with other materials, the processing costs increase. The result is a more expensive recycling program and a lower commodity credit (rebate) on your bill.

### Cart placement

Carts should be out by 6 a.m. Place your cart at the curb or within 3 feet of the road, with the opening of the cart facing the street or alley. The cart should be at least 3 feet away from basketball hoops, trees, mailboxes, or other containers. Place the cart 5 feet away from vehicles. Allow 18 feet of space above the cart for the truck’s automated robotic arm.

Whenever possible, please take care not to block bicycle lanes or sidewalks.

### Calendars

Visit [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org/Resources](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org/Resources) for a copy of the most recent recycle calendar.



### Watch those plastics

Knowing which plastics to place in your curbside cart can be tricky. It all depends on which types of plastics the recycling facilities will accept. The number on the bottom of the container does not tell you whether or not you can recycle the item. Please follow these guidelines for curbside recycling in Thurston County:

#### ✓ Yes

- Plastic bottles and jars with a top more narrow than the base. No lids or caps.
- Plastic dairy tubs (yogurt, butter, sour cream, etc.). No lids.
- Plastic buckets, such as kitty litter or detergent buckets. Buckets must be clean. No lids or handles.
- Rigid plastic plant pots. Must be clean. No dirt or soil.

#### ✗ No

- **No** plastic bags. Recycle bags at local grocery stores or at the Waste and Recovery Center (WARC), located at 2418 Hogum Bay Road NE in Hawks Prairie.
- **No** plastic take-out containers or frozen food trays. This includes the trays, tubs, and clamshell containers that hold take-out food, deli items, or produce.
- **No** polystyrene foam (often called Styrofoam™). Recycle foam blocks and food containers at the WARC or DART Container Corp., located at 600 Israel Road SE in Tumwater. All foam must have the number six recycle symbol. Rinse food containers clean before recycling them. Put foam in a clear plastic bag.



# ✓ YES! These items go in your curbside recycle cart



Aluminum & tin cans



Pots & pans



Newspapers



Paper bags



Paperback books



Magazines, catalogs & mail  
(windows, staples and sticky notes ok)



Cereal & food boxes



Phone books



Cardboard (flattened)



Plastic bottles, jugs & jars  
(neck must be narrower than the base, no lids or caps)



Dairy tubs & yogurt cups



Plastic buckets  
(must be clean, no lids or handles)



Rigid plant pots  
(clean, no dirt)

## Put glass in a separate bin



Rinse glass bottles & jars and place in a separate bin that you provide (labels are ok).

**Rinse food and other contaminants from your recyclables.**

**Only the items shown above go in your recycle cart. Remember: When in doubt, throw it out.**

This list may be different than what you've seen in the past. These changes are based on a study done by a regional group of local governments, haulers, recycling facilities, and manufacturers.

## Contact information

If you have questions about your curbside recycling service, call your recycling hauler.

Butler's Cove Refuse . . . . . (360) 923-0111  
 . . . . . cust2183@wcnx.org

Eastern Grays Harbor (Summit Lake area)  
 . . . . . (360) 923-0111  
 . . . . . cust2183@wcnx.org

Joe's Refuse . . . . (360) 736-4769 (long distance)  
 . . . . . or (800) 525-4167  
 . . . . . cust2188@wcnx.org

Pacific Disposal . . . . . (360) 923-0111  
 . . . . . cust2183@wcnx.org

Rural Refuse . . . . . (360) 923-0111  
 . . . . . cust2183@wcnx.org

For general information about waste prevention, disposal, and recycling programs, visit [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org) or call (360) 867-2491. The TDD number is (360) 754-2933.

## Sell or donate items

Reusing working items keeps them out of the landfill and gives them new life. If your stuff is in good shape, donate it or sell it on a materials exchange website.

- [www.2good2toss.com](http://www.2good2toss.com) – all items are \$200 or less.
- <http://seattle.craigslist.org/oly> – no price limits.
- [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org) – items must be free.

## Where Do I Take My? database

Wondering what to do with unwanted bikes, bricks, or other odd items? Find a list of reuse and recycling locations at [www.WhereDoITakeMy.org](http://www.WhereDoITakeMy.org).

## Recycle electronics

Recycle computers, monitors, laptops, TVs, tablet computers, and E-readers (Nooks, Kindles, etc.) free through Washington State's E-Cycle program. Visit [www.ecyclewashington.org](http://www.ecyclewashington.org) or call 1-800-RECYCLE for collection locations.



Thurston County Solid Waste  
 2404-A Heritage Ct. SW  
 Olympia, WA 98502

