

SINGLE SORT RECYCLING

Frequently Asked Questions

Recycling Just Got Easier!

The old days of separating your recyclables are over. We're making it easier! Your hauler will be dropping off a new recycling container for you to use, and all your recyclables will go in that container, mixed together. Yes, really!

Beginning January 1, 2015, paper, cardboard, plastics, aluminum cans, glass bottles, all go in the same container. No sorting. No hassle.

What is single sort recycling?

In a single sort system, residents only separate recyclables from trash, but no further sorting of recyclables is done. Paper, cardboard, bottles, cans, and other recyclable materials are all mixed together, usually in a large wheeled cart.

Why should I recycle?

The 25 communities participating in the county recycling program save money by earning revenue from the sale of recyclables rather than paying to dispose of garbage in a landfill. Recycling provides other economic benefits too. Much of the recovered paper, cardboard, metal, plastic, and glass are used in the U.S. to make new products. Also, local jobs are created to collect and process recyclables. The environment benefits since less water, energy, and other natural resources are used in the recycling process than in extracting and producing raw materials.

How do I recycle?

The new, larger recycling container makes it more convenient and easy to recycle than ever before. Just follow the enclosed Acceptable Recyclables Guide when placing recyclables in the container. If you include a recycling can with each garbage can in your home, you'll make recycling as convenient as possible for your entire family.

What items should be put into my recycling container?

Cardboard, food boxes, cartons, paper, glass bottles, glass jars, plastic containers: #1, 2, 4, 5, 7, aluminum cans, metal cans, pots and pans. *Refer to Acceptable Recyclables guide.*

What happens to all the recycling I put in the recycling container?

All the acceptable materials are sent to our local recycling facility to be sorted, baled, and shipped to a manufacturer to be made into new products.

Can I recycle more items now?

Yes! We are proud to announce that the residential recycling program has been expanded. Some of the **new** materials include:

- Plastic containers: additional plastic #1 & 2 accepted and plastic #4, 5 & 7 now accepted
- Large rigid plastics (5-gallon pails, plastic laundry baskets, plastic crates, plastic dish drying racks)
- Metal pots & pans

Also, there is no need to cut cardboard into individual sheets. If it fits in the recycling container, we'll collect it.

What happens if the recycling container is lost or damaged?

Call the municipal contracted hauler:
John's Disposal: 262-473-4700

What do I do with my old recycling bin?

Place your empty bins right in the new recycling container on your NEXT collection day and they will be recycled. If you do not have curbside collection, you may continue to use the old recycling bin to collect extra recycling in the home or garage or place the bin outside for pick up.

What does the recycling truck look like?

Because of single sort recycling, the truck no longer needs to have two compartments. In fact, the truck could be the same model that picks up garbage. As long as the truck that picks up your recyclables is not picking up garbage at the same time, you can be assured that your recyclables will be recovered.

For more information, visit:
waukeshacounty.gov/recycling