



# 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

- Be sure items are recyclable before placing them in the cart.
- Recyclables must be free of food waste and other contaminants.
- 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 that have drain holes to prevent them from filling up with rain water. Glass containers that have water in them may be left uncollected.
- There is no need to remove labels, staples, envelope windows, or sticky notes.

### 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 from 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.

### Calendars

For recycling calendars, visit [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org) and click on “publications” in the top navigation bar.



### Watch Those Plastics

Knowing which plastics to place in the curbside cart can be tricky. It all depends on which types of plastics the recycling facilities will accept – regardless of the numbers featured on the bottom of the containers. 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 tubs that originally held dairy items such as yogurt, butter, or sour cream. No lids.
- Plastic buckets, such as kitty litter or detergent buckets. Buckets must be clean. No lids or handles.
- Rigid plastic plant pots that are clean. No dirt or soil.

#### ✗ No

- No plastic bags. Bags can be recycled at local grocery stores and at the Waste and Recovery Center, 2418 Hogum Bay Road N.E. in the Hawks Prairie area.
- 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.



# ✓ 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  
(empty, no dirt)

## Put Glass in a Separate Bin



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

**All items must be free of food and other contaminants. Please rinse properly.**

**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 that use the recyclables.

## 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  
 . . . . . 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 reduction, disposal, and recycling programs, visit [www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org](http://www.ThurstonSolidWaste.org) or call (360) 867-2491. The TDD number is (360) 754-2933.

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## Electronics

Working electronics can be sold or given away on [www.2good2toss.com](http://www.2good2toss.com). Many local businesses also accept electronics. Visit [www.WhereDoITakeMy.org](http://www.WhereDoITakeMy.org) for a list. Televisions, monitors, laptops, TVs, and E-book readers (such as The Kindle and the Nook) can be recycled free through Washington State's E-Cycle program. Visit [www.ecyclewashington.org](http://www.ecyclewashington.org) for collection locations, or call 1-800-RECYCLE.

## Where Do I Take My? ...

[www.WhereDoITakeMy.org](http://www.WhereDoITakeMy.org)

Wondering what to do with those unwanted bikes, bricks and lawn chairs? Visit [www.WhereDoITakeMy.org](http://www.WhereDoITakeMy.org) for a list of reuse and recycling locations. Also visit the following free materials-exchange websites to buy, sell, or give away items.

- [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) – all items must be free

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