How to RECYCLE

A Guide To Recycling In Delaware

DELAWARE RECYCLES

It's second nature.

DELAWARE RECYCLES
It's second nature.

Fellow Delawareans:

Thanks directly to Delaware's Universal Recycling Law, recycling is available at home, work, school, and play. It's now easier than ever to recycle. The state currently recycles about 44% of its municipal solid waste, making us a national leader in recycling. But our job is not done. Together, we can work to raise that figure to 60% – our recycling goal by 2020.

A few key things to remember about universal recycling:
1. Whoever collects your trash at your residence must include recycling as part of your waste service, and must provide you with a recycling container and collection schedule. Recycling collection services are provided at least once every other week. Most Delawareans now recycle.

2. Universal recycling makes it easy. All recyclable materials accepted can go directly into your recycling container – no sorting required. Many other materials and recyclable items can be recycled by dropping them off at recycling centers or at special recycling events. Details can be found in this guide.

3. If you are in the commercial sector, such as a business, institution, property management or not-for-profit organization, the Universal Recycling Law requires you to actively participate in a comprehensive recycling program, and to keep recyclables out of your waste stream.

More recycling in Delaware means we are using our resources more efficiently; that we can wait far longer before having to build more landfills, and that we are creating jobs in the recycling industry.

Lastly, this updated "How to Recycle" in Delaware guide is a collaboration between our Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and the Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA). We hope you'll find it useful. Thank you in advance for recycling.

Sincerely,
Governor John Carney

Table of Contents

Recycling in Delaware 4

Household Hazardous Waste..... 6

Electronic Goods Recycling..... 8

Yard Waste and Composting.....10

Recycling Reference Poster 11

Special Waste 15

Frequently-asked Questions..... 20

Additional Resources 22

Contact Information 23

About Our Cover Photo:

Kirk Middle School of Newark, Delaware was crowned national champion of the Keep America Beautiful® Recycle-Bowl, the national recycling competition for K-12 students, teachers and school communities. Kirk Middle School recycled 30.85 pounds of materials per student during the competition. The school launched its Recycle Club in 2012, under the direction of Helene Ross-Williams.

Recycling containers and collection for residents

Your waste hauler or municipality will provide you with an adequately-sized recycling container for the purpose of storage and collection of recyclables. Recycling collection services will be provided at least once every other week. Check with your waste hauler or your city/town office for available container options and collection schedules.

Find a waste / recycling hauler

A list of Delaware licensed waste haulers offering Universal Recycling can be found by visiting the Delaware Solid Waste Authority website at www.dswa.com or by calling DSWA at 800-404-7080. Waste haulers can provide you with waste and recycling services, rates, and pick-up schedules. Call them if you have specific questions about their services.

Universal Recycling

For questions about the Universal Recycling Law or the Universal Recycling Regulations go to www.recycling.delaware.gov or call DNREC, Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances at 302-739-9403.

Commercial sector recycling

All commercial sector entities are required to: actively participate in a comprehensive recycling program, identify recyclables and keep them separate from the solid waste stream, and ensure the recyclables are collected for recycling.

DELAWARE RECYCLES It's second nature.

RECYCLING IN DELAWARE

☑ ACCEPTED IN CART

Place only these materials loose, empty, clean and dry in your recycling cart or dumpster:

PAPER
Magazines, junk mail, paper bags, office paper, newspaper, etc.

PLASTIC CONTAINERS
Leave lids on.

CANS, BOTTLES, JARS
Remove lids and recycle

KEEP YOUR RECYCLING OUT OF BAGS. PLACE ITEMS LOOSE IN THE BIN.

CARTONS, PAPERBOARD, CORRUGATED CARDBOARD

☒ NOT ACCEPTED IN CART

Keep these items out of your recycling cart or dumpster:

SHREDDED PAPER

FROZEN FOOD/ REFRIGERATED CONTAINERS

FOOD WASTE

COFFEE CUPS

GARBAGE

MIRRORS AND WINDOW GLASS

TANGLERS
Garden hoses, string lights, nylon rope, etc.

SCRAP METAL

Visit the website to learn about recycling these items:

BATTERIES

STYROFOAM

PLASTIC BAGS
Return to retail store.

ELECTRONICS

YARD WASTE

Household Hazardous Waste

DSWA operates a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Program free for all Delaware residents. Weekly events are held in each county and weekend events are held throughout the year around Delaware. To find a current schedule of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events visit: www.dswa.com.

You can bring the following items to a HHW collection event:

- Product containers marked with words, "Warning: Hazardous," "Flammable," "Poisonous," "Corrosive" or "Explosive." See below for listing.
- Household Items: Full aerosol cans, bleach, chemistry kits, nail polish, polish removers, perfumes, disinfectants, drain cleaners, floor wax, mercury thermometers, moth balls, oven cleaner, spot remover, toilet cleaner, fluorescent light bulbs and compact fluorescent light bulbs.

- Explosives: Ammunition, firecrackers, gunpowder
  EXPLOSIVES NOT ACCEPTED at Weekly Collection Events or 1st Saturday Event at Delaware Recycling Center

- Workshop Items: Corrosives, paints, small compressed-gas cylinders, solvents, stains, strippers, thinners, varnish, wood preservatives, fluorescent bulbs

- Yard/Garden Items: Fungicides, herbicides, pesticides, pool chemicals

- Automotive Materials: Antifreeze, auto batteries,

DELAWARE RECYCLES It's second nature.

Helpful tips:

- Bring materials in original, sealed containers. Do not mix products in one container.
- To prevent leakage or breakage, pack separately in absorbent material or triple bag.
- Bring rags to clean up any spills, and dispose of rags at the collection site.

What's NOT accepted at HHW collection events:

- *Friable asbestos: Disposal by appointment only at Cherry Island Landfill for a fee. Call 302-764-5385 for details.
- Non-friable asbestos: Accepted by appointment at all DSWA landfills for a fee.
- Unknown substances: Unknown items that are greater than 1 gallon or 8 pounds.
- Radioactive waste
- Cooking Oil
- Prescription medication: DO NOT FLUSH! Please turn to page 18 for information about disposing of perscription medication

**The hazardous friable asbestos is material which can be crumbled, pulverized, or reduced to powder by hand pressure. This may include previously non-friable material which become broken or damaged by mechanical force; example: ceiling tiles.*

DSWA has an electronics recycling program available to residents, schools, non-profit groups, and public agencies. Recycling electronic goods removes potentially hazardous materials from the waste stream and saves landfill space. Many retail stores that sell electronics may offer EGR take-back programs.

Some components of these electronic devices may contain pieces that if improperly handled could be harmful to the environment. Certain components may contain small amounts of lead, silver, barium, cadmium, and mercury. Many of these metals can be recovered and recycled by de-manufacturing and recycling of electronic devices.

Drop-off locations for EGR

DSWA provides drop-off locations for electronics recycling in each county, as well collection during special Saturday events. For information on collection locations and schedules visit: www.dswa.com.

Acceptable electronics for recycling:

Computer components and/or parts

Personal computers
Main frame computers
Mini computers
Terminals
Printers
Notepad computers
Notebook computers
Electronic typewriters
Monitors
Keyboards
Mice
Cables
Laptop computers
Copying equipment
Calculators

Telecommunications equipment

Telephone systems
Telephones
Facsimile
Cordless telephones
Answering machines
Terminals
Telex
Pay telephones
Cellular telephones

Radio, television, electro acoustic radios

Televisions
Video recorders
Audio amplifiers
Cassette players
Radios
Video cameras
Tape recorders
VCRS
Record players
DVD players

Small household appliances

Microwave ovens
Hand-held game systems
Electronic toys
Vacuum cleaners
Video game systems

Yard Waste and Composting

Yard Waste is plant material resulting from lawn maintenance, gardening and landscaping activities and includes; grass, leaves, prunings, brush, shrubs, garden materials, Christmas trees, and tree limbs up to 4 inches in diameter. These materials are valuable ingredients for the generation of mulch and compost and cannot be disposed of in your trash or in any DSWA landfill, outside of the designated yard waste area at the landfill.

Management options:

- Grasscycle by using a mulching lawn mower or purchase an inexpensive mulching blade and leave grass clippings on your lawn as free natural fertilizer.
- Manage your yard waste and food scraps as compost on your own property
- Take your yard waste to a drop-off facility.
- Hire a service to collect your yard waste.
- For more information on yard waste recycling, composting, and management options: www.recycling.delaware.gov or visit www.dswa.com

Poster

Use this poster as a quick reference guide for what to place in your single stream recycling carts. Please place all items loose - not bagged - in your recycling cart to allow for easy collection and processing.

RECYCLING IN DELAWARE

ACCEPTED IN CART

Place only these materials loose, empty, clean and dry in your recycling cart or dumpster:

PAPER
Magazines, junk mail, paper bags, office paper, newspaper, etc.

PLASTIC CONTAINERS
Leave lids on.

CANS, BOTTLES, JARS
Remove lids and recycle separately.

KEEP YOUR RECYCLING OUT OF BAGS. PLACE ITEMS LOOSE IN THE BIN.

CARTONS, PAPERBOARD, CORRUGATED CARDBOARD

NOT ACCEPTED IN CART

Keep these items out of your recycling cart or dumpster:

SHREDDED PAPER

FROZEN FOOD/ REFRIGERATED CONTAINERS

FOOD WASTE

COFFEE CUPS

GARBAGE

MIRRORS AND WINDOW GLASS

TANGLERS
Garden hoses, string lights, nylon rope, etc.

SCRAP METAL

Visit the website to learn about recycling these items:

BATTERIES

STYROFOAM

PLASTIC BAGS
Return to retail store.

ELECTRONICS

YARD WASTE

DSWA DELAWARE SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

DELAWARE RECYCLES
It's second nature.

www.de.gov/recycling

Additional Resources

Education

Delaware Solid Waste Authority Education Building: Education programs focus on recycling and reliable solid waste management practices. For questions or to schedule a field a trip contact DSWA's Public Education Outreach Technician, at 1-800-404-7080, or online at: www.dswa.com.

Waste Stream Assessments

DNREC offers free waste assessments for your school, business, or not-for-profit organization. Staff will conduct a qualitative analysis of your waste stream and waste management practices and offer helpful recommendations. The assessment will include information about waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting.

Contact the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances at 302-739-9403 for more information or visit Delaware Recycles, online at: www.recycling.delaware.gov

Keep DE Litter Free

In partnership with Keep Delaware Beautiful, Delaware has launched a statewide campaign to encourage Delawareans to not litter, to clean up public spaces, and protect Delaware's unique natural heritage.

A 2018 study from Keep Delaware Beautiful and the State of Delaware identified more than 6,000 pieces of litter for every mile of roadway surveyed. Not surprisingly, cigarette butts, plastic bags, aluminum cans, and glass bottles accounted for a significant percentage of the roadway trash.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Most importantly, don't litter! And encourage family members, friends and colleagues to help "Keep DE Litter Free" by taking the pledge at de.gov/litterfree.
- Share the pledge on your social media and post using #KeepDELitterFree.
- Participate in a cleanup: Find an event at: de.gov/litterfree.

Keep Delaware Beautiful

Keep Delaware Beautiful was formed in 2016 with the purpose of fostering and promoting Keep America Beautiful programs focused on litter prevention, community beautification and minimizing the impact of solid waste in the State of Delaware.

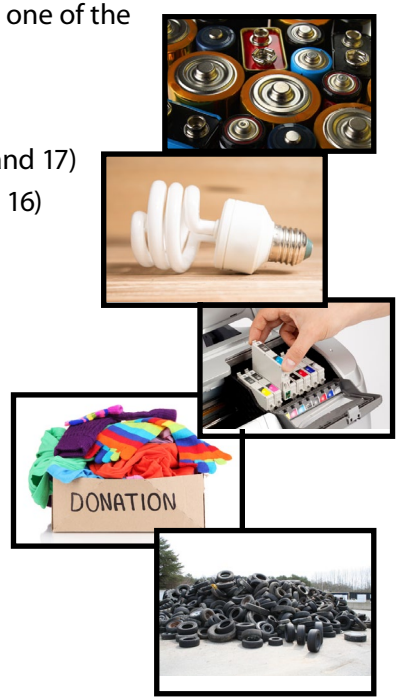
About Keep America Beautiful

Keep America Beautiful, the nation's iconic community improvement nonprofit organization, inspires and educates people to take action every day to improve and beautify their community environment. Celebrating its 65th Anniversary in 2018, Keep America Beautiful strives to End Littering, Improve Recycling and Beautify America's Communities. We believe everyone has a right to live in a clean, green and beautiful community, and shares a responsibility to contribute to that vision.

For more information on Keep Delaware Beautiful, visit www.KeepDelawareBeautiful.com

Special Waste

Special waste can be defined as any waste material whose physical characteristics or chemical makeup may require special handling procedures, which may pose an unusual threat to human health, equipment, property, or the environment. While most special waste can be disposed of in landfills, it is preferable to keep these materials separate from regular trash and recycled through one of the following programs:



- Battery recycling (see page 16)
- Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL) (see page 6 and 17)
- Construction and demolition debris (see page 16)
- Ink and toner cartridges (see page 17)
- Appliances (see page 19)
- Prescription medication (see page 18)
- Scrap tires (see page 19)
- Styrofoam (see page 19)
- Clothing and household goods (see page 17)
- Motor oil and filters (see page 19)
- Appliances (see page 19)

Battery recycling

Household alkaline and rechargeable batteries can be recycled at DSWA drop off centers. Lead-acid batteries can be recycled at businesses that sell or replace vehicle or boat batteries. Batteries can also be dropped off at a DSWA Household Hazardous Waste Event. To find the nearest DSWA drop-off center or for information about special HHW Collection events please visit: www.dswa.com or call (800)-404-7080.

DELAWARE RECYCLES
It's second nature.

Construction and demolition debris

About 80 percent of mixed construction waste can be recovered through recycling. Materials that are typically accepted at construction and demolition recycling facilities may include: cardboard, carpet, ceiling tiles, concrete, drywall, pallets, paper, plastic, rubble, scrap metal, shingles, and wood. For more information see: www.revolutionrecovery.com/ or call 302-356-3000.

For demolition and remodeling, builders and homeowners can identify materials that can be reused or salvaged for donation or resale. Donate or purchase construction materials at a Habitat for Humanity Restore. Restores are located in Kent, Sussex, and New Castle Counties.

Habitat for Humanity | ReStore

CFL (Compact fluorescent bulbs)

CFL bulbs may be returned to most home improvement stores for recycling or brought to a Delaware Solid Waste Authority Household Hazardous Waste weekly or weekend event (see page 6 for more information).

Ink and toner cartridges

Contact an office or electronics store for recycling option services. Some retailers and suppliers offer take-back programs and may provide toner cartridge collection boxes for your office or school.

Clothing and household goods

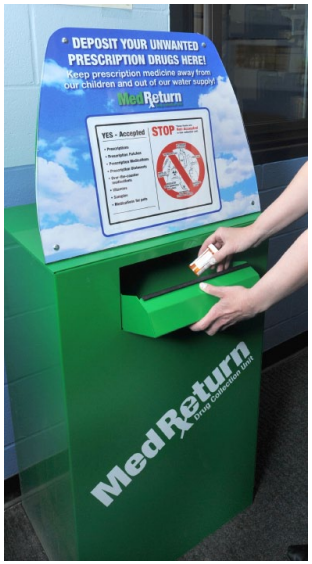
Reusable clothing, furniture, small appliances, toys, and building materials can be donated to charity or purchased for reuse

Prescription medication

DO NOT FLUSH

Unused portions of medicines must be disposed of properly to avoid harm.

Permanent medication collection boxes are available in Delaware for safe disposal. A list of these locations can be found at www.dswa.com



The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will accept unused or expired medication for safe disposal at the National Prescription Drug Take Back Event.

For more information on Drug Take Back Programs and permanent prescription drug drop off locations, please visit HelpIsHereDE.com

DELAWARE RECYCLES
It's second nature.

Scrap tires

Scrap tire piles present a number of environmental, health, and safety hazards to our communities. For one, they are an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes. DNREC's Scrap Tire Management Program registers scrap tire piles and implements a cleanup program for scrap tire piles that number more than 100 tires and were in existence on June 30, 2006. For more information please call DNREC's Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances at 302-739-9403.

Residents may also bring up to 4 tires to DSWA Landfills and Transfer Station at the regular disposal rate. For more information visit www.dswa.com

Styrofoam

Styrofoam is not accepted in curbside recycling but DSWA has partnered with DART Container to provide collection of Styrofoam at specific DSWA recycling drop-off centers. Acceptable items include clean foodservice products such as foam cups, foam plates, foam egg cartons, as well as foam protective packaging typically used to protect consumer goods and electronics. Visit: www.dswa.com

Motor oil and filters

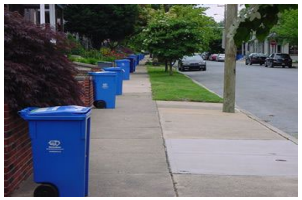
Oil which has not been mixed with other fuels is accepted at specific DSWA recycling drop-off centers, visit: www.dswa.com to locate a center near you.

Appliances

Appliances such as air conditioners, refrigerators, dishwashers, freezers, washers, dryers, and water heaters can be recycled at DSWA landfills or transfer stations for a fee. Visit www.dswa.com for more information or call 800-404-7080.

Frequently-asked questions (FAQ)

Question: What are the requirements imposed on waste collectors – either private hauling companies or municipalities – by Delaware's universal recycling law?



Answer: Under Delaware's universal recycling law, waste collection service in Delaware, whether provided by a municipality or a commercial hauling service, will consist of (1) removal of trash for disposal in landfills and (2) collection of single stream recyclable items. Single stream recycling is a system where all traditional recyclables can be stored, collected, and placed loose in the same container - no bags please. Universal recycling started with single-family homes as well as restaurants and bars in September 2011, and was followed by multifamily homes, like apartments, in January 2013, and then all commercial businesses are required to participate in recycling by January 2014.

Q: Is recycling required in the commercial sector?

A: Yes. All commercial sector entities are required to actively participate in a comprehensive recycling program, identify recyclables and keep them separate from the solid waste stream, and ensure the recyclables are collected for recycling. Commercial sector means any for-profit or not-for-profit retail or wholesale stores, offices, food service establishments, hospitality, utility, warehouses, and other manufacturing, industrial or processing activities, and institutions such as social, charitable, educational, healthcare, professional and government services. Property managers in the single and multi-family residential sectors, and in the commercial sector shall ensure that recycling services are available for tenants in a manner that is convenient. Property managers, at a minimum, are to provide annual notification to their tenants that recycling services are provided with instructions on participation.

Q: What happens to my recyclables?

A: Most recyclables collected in Delaware are dropped off at a DSWA transfer station and then taken to a materials recovery facility (MRF) located in Delaware, for processing. The materials are separated, baled, and marketed by the processor.

Q: Where can I find a DSWA drop-off center?

A: DSWA continues to operate drop-off centers and hold weekly and weekend household hazardous waste, electronics good collection, and paper shredding events. For more information visit: www.dswa.com or call 800-404-7080.

DELAWARE RECYCLES It's second nature.

Q: Why is universal recycling in the best interest of Delawareans?

A: Landfills in all three counties have had to undergo expansions that are costing residents and businesses tens of millions of dollars per year in higher disposal costs. Increased recycling saves land as well as reduces the cost of developing new landfill space in the future. Recycling also supports job creation through the collection and processing of recyclables and in the manufacturing of new products from the recycled materials. And the most efficient system for recycling – and the one that is the lowest cost for everyone – is the system in which everyone participates, hence the requirement that all waste haulers provide recycling services to their customers and the commercial sector requirement of participation in a comprehensive recycling program.

Q: Why ban yard waste from landfills?

A: Yard waste is a significant portion of the waste we discard and it is easily recyclable. Saving landfill space will help keep disposal costs down. Managing yard waste creates valuable products such as mulch or compost that are in demand for a wide variety of uses. Many outlets exist to recycle yard waste and individuals can even recycle it on their own property. We do not want to continue landfilling yard waste while importing mulch and compost products from other states.

Q: Why should I recycle electronic goods?

A: Some components of these electronic devices may contain pieces that if improperly handled could be harmful to the environment and to human health. Certain components may contain small amounts of lead, silver, barium, cadmium, and mercury. Many of these metals can be recovered and recycled by de-manufacturing and recycling of electronic devices.

Q: Why can't I include plastic bags in my single stream recycling?

A: All plastic bags are problematic during the processing of recyclables because they get tangled around the moving parts at the material recovery facility (MRF). Place your recyclables loose – no bags – in your recycling cart or dumpster. Plastic grocery bags and plastic films that are clean and dry can be recycled at most large retailers in Delaware.

Education

Delaware Solid Waste Authority Education Building: Education programs focus on recycling and reliable solid waste management practices. For questions or to schedule a field a trip contact DSWA's Public Education Outreach Technician, at 1-800-404-7080, or online at: www.dswa.com.

Waste Stream Assessments

DNREC offers free waste assessments for your school, business, or not-for-profit organization. Staff will conduct a qualitative analysis of your waste stream and waste management practices and offer helpful recommendations. The assessment will include information about waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting.

Contact the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances at 302-739-9403 for more information or visit Delaware Recycles, online at: www.recycling.delaware.gov

Keep DE Litter Free

In partnership with Keep Delaware Beautiful, Delaware has launched a statewide campaign to encourage Delawareans to not litter, to clean up public spaces, and protect Delaware's unique natural heritage.

A 2018 study from Keep Delaware Beautiful and the State of Delaware identified more than 6,000 pieces of litter for every mile of roadway surveyed. Not surprisingly, cigarette butts, plastic bags, aluminum cans, and glass bottles accounted for a significant percentage of the roadway trash.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Most importantly, don't litter! And encourage family members, friends and colleagues to help "Keep DE Litter Free" by taking the pledge at de.gov/litterfree.
- Share the pledge on your social media and post using #KeepDELitterFree.
- Participate in a cleanup: Find an event at: de.gov/litterfree.

Keep Delaware Beautiful

Keep Delaware Beautiful was formed in 2016 with the purpose of fostering and promoting Keep America Beautiful programs focused on litter prevention, community beautification and minimizing the impact of solid waste in the State of Delaware.

About Keep America Beautiful

Keep America Beautiful, the nation's iconic community improvement nonprofit organization, inspires and educates people to take action every day to improve and beautify their community environment. Celebrating its 65th Anniversary in 2018, Keep America Beautiful strives to End Littering, Improve Recycling and Beautify America's Communities. We believe everyone has a right to live in a clean, green and beautiful community, and shares a responsibility to contribute to that vision.

For more information on Keep Delaware Beautiful, visit www.KeepDelawareBeautiful.com

Cape Henlopen State Park, Photo Credit: Terri Lottmann

CONTACT US:

Delaware Recycles, online at: www.recycling.delaware.gov

Delaware Solid Waste Authority, 1-800-404-7080 or online at: www.dswa.com