City of Pittsburgh

Don’t know what to do with something that we do not accept at the curb?

The Recycling Division has developed an interactive map to help find local/convenient options for re-use, recycling or responsible disposal of items that we do not include with our curbside single stream recycling program.

To see how it works, go to: www.pittsburghpa.gov/dpw/materials-recovery-map

Please note, information provided is subject to change. We recommend that you call ahead to confirm hours and that your specific item is still accepted.

- WHAT NOT TO DO -

- NEVER THROW NEEDLES/SHARPS DIRECTLY INTO THE GARBAGE.
  - Place needles, syringes and lancets in a hard plastic container with a tight-fitting plastic lid, labeled as medical waste. Place the container in your trash.
  - NEVER in the recycling.

- Do not use trash cans over 35 gallon for collection.
- Do not park in NO PARKING AREAS on collection day. Please observe all posted signs.
- Do not include any items that are not listed as acceptable for curbside recycling.
- When in doubt, throw it out!

We’ve Got an App For That…PGH.st
City residents can receive e-mail or text messages reminding them about trash and recycling collection days. The messages also note when holidays delay pickup and when the biannual curbside yard debris collections are scheduled.

For more information visit www.pgh.st.
Accepted Curbside Recycling Items

**MIXED PAPER**
- Office Paper
- Newspaper
- Magazines
- Hardcover / Softcover Books
- Catalogs
- Junk Mail / Phone Books
- Paperboard

**PLASTIC BOTTLES, JARS & JUGS (#1-5, 7)**
- Beverage Bottles
- Gallon Jugs
- Food Bottles, Tubs and Jars (3 gallons or less)
- Discard all lids and caps
- No Styrofoam or #6 Plastics
- No Food or Liquids

**GLASS BOTTLES, JARS & JUGS**
- Food Jars
- Beer / Juice / Soda Bottles
- Wine / Spirit Bottles
- No plate glass (windows) or dinnerware (Pyrex, etc.)
- No Food or Liquids

**ALUMINUM / STEEL CANS**
- Beer / Juice / Soda Cans
- Food Cans
- Aerosol Cans (Must be completely empty)
- No Food or Liquids

*Place all items above together in blue bags or clearly marked recycling bins.*

**CARDBOARD**
- Must be flattened and either bundled & tied or placed inside of another cardboard box for set out
- Do not include any heavily-soiled/food waste cardboard (from pizza boxes, etc.)
- No Styrofoam / Peanuts or Bubble Wrap
Each week 14 trucks collect single stream recycling from half of the City, including recycling from City drop-off locations, City and County facilities, Pittsburgh Public schools and Housing Authority properties. All of this material is delivered to a materials recovery facility, otherwise known as a MRF. At the MRF all of the recycling is dumped into a giant pile. Large machines are then used to load all of the material onto a conveyor system that feeds it through a long train of machines designed to separate out specific materials one by one.

First large non-recyclable items such as plastic lawn furniture, pots & pans and “tanglers” like garden hoses are pulled out of the mix. These items can damage the sorting equipment and injure the workers. The material then runs through a series of mechanical sifters called star screens. The screens are used to pull out heavy glass and the large cardboard. Star screens are also used to separate the bulk of the paper from the bottles and cans. The fiber material then goes on to be further separated by type and color.

The plastic and mixed metals are then separated by material type. Huge magnets are used to pull out steel & tin cans. Aluminum cans are removed with a machine that uses eddy current. The machine is able to give aluminum a temporary charge that makes the cans literally fly into the air, removing them from the other materials. Last but not least, optical sorters separate the plastics by color and type. A photo eye determines what kind of plastic it is and an air current blows the different items off the belt.

After all the materials are sorted, most are formed into large bales weighing up to 1,500 lbs. each. Everything is then sent by truck or rail to various manufactures and industries worldwide that will use the various commodities to make new products.

Please note, that even though the commodities are mainly sorted by machines, workers are stationed throughout the process for quality control. Any items that are not included in the list of accepted materials should not be included in the recycling. These items can damage the trucks and sorting equipment. Furthermore, they can injure the workers that collect and sort the recycling at the MRF.

Ever Wonder What Happens To Your Recycling?

Saturday, May 20, 2017 and Saturday, November 18, 2017.

Yard waste must be in paper bags only and placed at the normal refuse collection site. Bags should NOT exceed 35 pounds. Paper yard debris bags can be purchased at local hardware or department stores. Tree branches and bushes must be cut, bundled and tied in lengths not exceeding five (5’) ft. Tree branch diameter should not exceed four (4”) inches. Material in plastic bags or placed at the curb loose, will NOT be accepted.

-City residents are able to drop-off Yard Waste, Grass & Leaves year round at three DPW drop-off locations. Fees apply for larger amounts.
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
2017 HOLIDAYS

When a holiday falls on or before your collection day, your pickup will be one day later.

JAN 2 MONDAY
NEW YEARS DAY OBSERVED

JAN 16 MONDAY
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

MAY 29 MONDAY
MEMORIAL DAY

JULY 4 TUESDAY
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SEP 4 MONDAY
LABOR DAY

NOV 23 THURSDAY
THANKSGIVING

DEC 25 MONDAY
CHRISTMAS

2017 CITY OF PITTSBURGH RECYCLING / REFUSE NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR

City of Pittsburgh Public Works
Recycling Drop-Off Centers

Open Monday through Friday (except holidays) from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Drop-off centers may offer Saturday hours. Call each center for details.

**East End Drop-Off Center**
(West Homewood/East Liberty)
North Dallas Ave. at Hamilton Ave.
412-665-3609

**Hazelwood Drop-Off Center**
Melancthon Ave
off 5200 block of Second Ave.
412-422-6524

**West End Drop-Off Center**
Hassler St.
Next to Herschel Field
412-937-3054

**Knoxville Drop-Off Center**
414 Bausman Street (off Mathews Avenue)
412-488-8341

**Strip District Drop-Off Center**
31st & Railroad Streets (under the 31st Street bridge)
412-255-2631

These facilities are open 24 hours/ day. Open to small businesses, bars and restaurants. These two facilities DO NOT accept yard debris, scrap metal or tires.

**Construction Junction (Point Breeze)**
Facility is open during Construction Junction business hours. Call 412-243-5025.
214 N. Lexington Ave. (off Penn Ave.) Does NOT accept yard debris, scrap metal or tires.