



**WILLIAM PEDUTO**

*Mayor*

**MICHAEL GABLE**

*Director*

## **Recycling Rules & Frequently Asked Questions**

Recycling is mandatory in the City of Pittsburgh!

Due to the overwhelming response to questions, below is a quick guide to help you answer the most pressing recycling questions at this time. For folks that are interested in the City's amended code changes, please have them follow this link for the signed legislation and also the FAQ <https://pittsburghpa.gov/dpw/waste-regulations>

Due to the [National Sword](#), China and many other Southeast Asia countries are no longer purchasing the United States waste plastic or paper and have implemented a very strict .5% contamination rule on purchasing bales of recyclables. In turn, this has put national pressure on many municipal recycling programs as a whole. Here in Pittsburgh, we are committed to continue collecting recyclables. In order to do that, we must clean up our recycling stream and educate our population about the basics.

### **Single-Family Dwelling and Small Apartment Recycling Guidelines:**

The City of Pittsburgh practices single-stream curbside recycling and the Bureau of Environmental Services collects recycling from single-family homes, small apartments five or fewer and municipal buildings.

**Bins, Please!** As the City moves to improve the quality of recycling please use a blue bin or blue cart not exceeding 35 gallons. Place all recyclables loose in a durable, watertight container with a close fitting lid. Although the City still accepts blue bags, they clog equipment at the recycling facility and degrade the quality of recyclables. We encourage all residents to use our drop-off centers for recycling and for yard debris.



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### **How do I learn more about receiving a recycling bin?**

The City of Pittsburgh is currently working on a plan to distribute blue recycling containers to city residents serviced by the Bureau of Environmental Services beginning in 2020. As the City determines the program, please fill out the form to stay in touch or receive updates. To learn more information and stay informed, use this link to sign up. <https://pittsburghpa.gov/blue-bin-info/index.html>

### **The City of Pittsburgh currently accepts these materials for recycling curbside and at our drop-off centers:**

Cardboard

Glass bottles, jugs, and jars

Empty aluminum, aerosol, and steel cans

Mixed paper: office paper, newspaper, magazines, books, catalogs, hardcover/softcover books, junk mail, phone books, and paperboard

Empty plastic bottles, jugs, and jars 3 gallons or less

Please empty and rinse all containers, remove and discard all lids and caps. Only include clean mixed paper. Flatten, bundle, and place cardboard into another box or bin for collection.

The City no longer uses numbers 1-5 & 7 due to changes in the market. We are encouraging all residents to think neck-shape bottles for plastics since those are marketed commodities.

**The City of Pittsburgh does not accept plastic clamshells (generally a #1 plastic) such as berry, salad, or other to-go plastic containers in the recycling stream. They are brittle and our recycling processor does not accept them. Furthermore, the City does not accept "extra" plastic bags, cartons, or any other plastic that is not a bottle, jug, or jar at this time.**



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### **Is the City of Pittsburgh still accepting glass?**

Yes, both curbside and at our drop-off centers! Please note, our drop-off centers are reserved for Pittsburgh residents only. If you live outside the City please refer to [prc.org](http://prc.org) for a list of glass recycling pop-up events. If you are a commercial business in the City and looking for glass recycling, please email [teresa.bradley@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:teresa.bradley@pittsburghpa.gov) or visit <https://pittsburghpa.gov/dpw/commercial-recycling> for more options.

### **Shredded Paper:**

Shredded paper is no longer accepted at the curb and will need to be bagged and tied when taken to select drop-off locations to be recycled.

### **Recycling Drop-Off Locations:**

Some of the locations are division drop-off centers that also accept yard debris and tires. The division locations have specified hours Monday-Friday and may offer Saturday hours. Call each center for details and hours. For more information visit our recycling drop-off center link <https://pittsburghpa.gov/dpw/drop-off>.

\*\*Location accepts yard debris and two tires per day with no rims. + Location accepts shredded paper. †Location has glass exclusive roll off drop-off.

- East End Drop-off Center\*\*\*  
6814 Hamilton Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15208  
412-665-3609
- Strip District (24 hours) \*\*  
Under 31<sup>st</sup> Street Bridge  
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
- Hazelwood Drop-off Center\*\*\*  
40 Melanchton Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207  
412-422-6545
- Construction Junction (8am-6pm) \*\*  
214 N Lexington Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
- West End Drop-off Center\*\*\*  
1330 Hassler Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220  
412-937-3054
- Beltzhoover †  
McKinley Park  
Bausman Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15210



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**Pizza Boxes:**

The only acceptable way for us to take pizza boxes by our recycling crews is to remove the non-greasy top of the box and bundle with the rest of the cardboard. Pizza boxes that are whole at the curb will be considered landfill and be taken by our refuse crew.

**Yard Debris:**

Every spring and fall Pittsburgh residents are encouraged to compost their leaves, grass, branches, and other yard debris. The residents who do participate in this program help divert valuable resources from the landfill. Residents must place yard debris at their trash/recycling pick up spot before 6:00 a.m. The morning of service yard debris must be in brown paper bags and not weigh greater than 35 pounds. Branches must be bundled with fiber twine or natural rope in branch lengths of 5 feet or less.

Yard waste includes:

- leaves
- branches (4-inch diameter or less)
- brush
- grass

Yard waste should **NOT** contain any of the following prohibited materials:

- plastic bags
- metal or wire
- rocks, blocks, bricks
- dirt or gravel
- glass, metal or plastic

If yard debris is left out throughout the rest of the year it will be landfilled and only five bags of yard debris will be collected by our crews per pickup.



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### **Christmas Trees Recycling:**

Each year Christmas Trees are accepted at various locations throughout the City and composted into mulch and available to residents in the spring. Department of Public Works Division locations are open Monday-Saturday from 8am-1pm. All other locations follow regular park hours between 6am-11pm. In 2020 the locations are as follows:

#### **East**

Hazelwood Center 3rd Division of Public Works  
Melanchton Avenue off 5200 block of 2nd | 412-422-6524

East End Center 2nd Division of Public Works  
North Dallas Avenue at Hamilton Ave | 412-665-3609

Prospect Dr. Roundabout at Hobart Street in Schenley Park | PA, 15207  
Highland Park Swimming Pool/Volleyball Parking Lot | PA, 15206

#### **South**

Brookline Recreation Center | 1400 Oakridge St, Pittsburgh, PA, 15226

Oakwood Park | Ball Field at Noblestown Road | PA, 15213

Southside Riverfront Park near Boat Ramp | PA, 15203

#### **North**

West End Center 5th Division of Public Works

1330 Hassler Street off Herschel & Steuben (near Herschel Park) | 412-937-3054

Sue Murray Swimming Pool Parking Lot 301 | Cedar Ave, Pittsburgh, PA, 15212 (off of Stockton Ave)

Jack Stack Parking Lot | 600 Brighton Woods Rd. Pittsburgh, PA, 15212

#### **Central**

Kennard Park Kirkpatrick and Reed Street | PA, 15205

Baum Grove Parklet in Friendship | 400 Roup Ave PA, 15232 (off of Fairmont Ave)



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**Hard-to-Recycle and Household Chemical Waste:**

To recycle TVs, computers, and waste like paint, chemicals and automotive fluids, please contact Pittsburgh's partner, ECS&R at <https://ecsr.net/pittsburgh-recycling/>.

**Commercial Recycling:**

Anyone not serviced by the City is required to recycle the above materials through their private collector as stated in the waste regulations. The City is in the process of rewriting the waste regulations and will update the material types to reflect current market conditions. This would include commercial, institutional, and multi-unit dwellings.

In the City of Pittsburgh if you own or live in a multi-unit property your property must recycle. The City of Pittsburgh no longer offers recycling services to properties that have 6 or more units.