



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF UTILITIES & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
Department of Solid Waste Management

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

Kevin L. Demosky, Director
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CHANGES TO COUNTY SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING SERVICE

Dear Frederick County Recycler,

The Department of Solid Waste Management is adapting Frederick County's program to meet the demands of an evolving recycling industry. Changes are being made to the list of items accepted for recycling – and this affects all entities (residents and businesses) that participate in single-stream recycling. **We need YOUR help to ensure the success of the recycling program! Here's what we are asking of you:**

1. For recycling, return your plastic bags to stores, don't place them in the blue bin.

Plastic bags and plastic film (like food wrap) cannot be processed by single-stream sorting equipment, so **we no longer accept plastic bags** in our recycling program, including bags of bags. Many retail stores offer collection bins for plastic bags (visit www.plasticfilmrecycling.org for locations), or they may be reused or disposed. (Reusable bags are a great alternative!)

2. Save your shredded paper for composting or "shred events," don't place it in the blue bin.

Shredded paper is difficult to sort and bale; small pieces of paper mix in and contaminate other materials. As a result, **we no longer accept shredded paper**. If you don't compost, consider using a document destruction service as they are able to recycle this material. (For event listings, visit our website at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/GoRecycle.) Otherwise, shredded paper should be disposed as trash.

In addition to these changes, please remember the existing rules that help to keep our program running smoothly:

- **Keep it loose.** Recyclables can't be set out for collection in plastic bags. The sorting facility must have loose materials for processing, and, unfortunately, bagged materials are often thrown away. If you collect recyclables in bags, empty them loose into the blue bin, then reuse or dispose of any bags.
- **Know what's recyclable (and what's not).** As the recycling industry changes, the rules for recycling can change as well. If items cannot be efficiently collected, sorted or sold, they are not truly "recyclable" (despite any symbols, numbers or instructions printed on them). **Currently, it is estimated that about 20% of what Frederick County collects is not actually recyclable, or, is sent in in a way that prevents the recyclables from being sorted or sold.**
- **Remember: when in doubt, throw it out** in the trash! If you are unsure whether something is recyclable or not, it's better to dispose of it than place it in a blue bin.

We send info about our recycling program on the collection schedule mailed out at the end of each year. Our website (www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/RecycleRight) contains a wealth of information. The **Recycle Coach app** is a useful tool for tips and recycling day reminders. And our Facebook community at #FrederickRecycles is a great place to ask questions and get updates.

We appreciate your participation in and support of Frederick County's single-stream recycling program. Remember that other recycling options may exist to accept materials not collected in a blue bin. (This includes the County's drop-off center at 9031 Reichs Ford Road.) While recycling may be more complicated than simply throwing something away, it is a critical part of the goal of reducing waste and conserving resources. Thank you for remembering to reduce, reuse and *recycle right!*

Rebecca Culler, Recycling Program Manager

Phone: 301-600-2960 Email: recycle@FrederickCountyMD.gov

~ More information on program rules on back of page. ~

Remember the Rules to Recycle Right!

Recycling:

- **Recyclables cannot be set out for collection in plastic bags.** Materials must be loose to be sorted. If bagged, they are thrown away at the sorting facility.
- **Not everything is recyclable!** Different types of paper, glass, plastic or metal have different properties- even if they look the same. Don't assume something is recyclable; check the list included here or visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/recycle. Placing things that are not recyclable in a blue bin hurts the program.



Carts:

- **Recycling carts are County property** and cannot be permanently altered or marked.
- **Carts are assigned to an address, not an occupant**, and should remain at the assigned address, even if the occupant moves.
- **Carts must be properly placed.** Recycle carts/bins should be set within six feet of the street and at least four feet away from other containers (like trash cans) or obstructions (like mailboxes).

Service:

- **Missed collections must be reported within 24 hours** of the scheduled day. If the contractor makes a mistake on your recycling day, please alert our office so that we can provide assistance. This can be done by: calling 301-600-2960, sending email to recycle@frederickcountymd.gov or via our free Recycle Coach app.

And Some Tips To Make It Easier...

- **Download the Recycle Coach app (or use it on our website).** Recycle Coach can provide recycling schedules as well as reminders for special waste events. It can be synced to a digital calendar or provide a print-ready file. You can also use the app or visit our website to ask if an item is or isn't recyclable, find recycling drop-off site information, or request a recycling cart. www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/recycle
- **The County offers three sizes of recycling carts!** If you need a larger recycling container (or need your existing cart to be repaired), visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/carts to see your options and place an order (for no charge). Or call our office at 301-600-2960.
- **To prevent litter, please don't over-fill your cart;** the lid needs to be able to close completely. On windy days it's helpful to use tape to secure the lid closed or place a heavy object on top.
- **If you have extra recycling,** it can be placed out for collection next to a blue bin inside an open cardboard box, paper bag or other container. Make sure to label any spare containers with large "RECYCLE" signs.