

FAQ's Columbia Recycling Frequently Asked Questions

What day of the week do I put my recycling container at the street?

The recycling container should be placed at the street on the same day that garbage is collected.

How often will my recycling container be emptied?

The container will be emptied on a bi-weekly basis, or every two weeks.

How much space should there be between my recycling and garbage container?

The containers should be placed four feet apart.

Do I have to rinse?

Rinsing is not required.

Do I have to remove labels?

No

Do I have to remove lids?

You do not have to remove lids; however, if you remove lids and flatten plastic bottles, you will have more room in your recycle bin.

Can I recycle glass at the curb?

No, glass breaks and contaminates the other recyclables. The broken glass can be dangerous to the sorters. Glass may be disposed of at the convenience centers or at the recycling drop off at W 8th & S Beckett.

Can I recycle bags at the curb?

No, plastic bags wrap around the conveyors and sorting equipment. They can be returned to most stores, or reused by residents.

Can I recycle shredded paper?

Yes

What plastics can be recycled?

All plastic containers can be recycled; bottles, buckets, tubs, clamshells, etc.

What kinds of paper can be recycled?

All paper can be recycled except for paper that has been soiled or has a wax coating. Newspaper, magazines, boxes, tubes, junk mail, office paper, shredded paper, gift wrap, and paperback books can all be recycled.

Can hardback books be recycled?

No, not at this time. The recycling facility is unable to remove the cover from the pages.

How do you sort the recyclables?

The recyclables are loaded onto a conveyor that passes by the workers. The workers hand sort the different materials into bins. The items are baled and shipped to manufacturers to make new products.

Do you sell to manufacturers nearby?

Yes, most of the recyclables will be made into new products within a 200-mile radius of Columbia. Some of the material will be used by manufacturers in Lewisburg and Manchester.

Other Pertinent Information:

The recycling facility where we drop off the city's recyclables has requested that residents **DO NOT** dispose of the following items in the recycling containers:

- Non-recyclable items (regular household trash)
- ANY over the counter or prescription medication bottles, regardless of the recycling numbers on the bottom of the containers
- Needles
- Medical waste
- Glass

Residents that misuse the recycling can as a secondary household trash can will have their cans permanently removed.

To dispose of pills, please bring them to the Maury County Solid Waste facility at 1233 Lawson White Drive where the pills will be mixed with paint, dissolved, and then poured onto wooden boards to dry. They are open Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 3:00pm. Phone number: 931-375-6401. You may also dispose of pills at your doctor's office.

To dispose of needles, residents may place the needles inside a high grade plastic bottle (like a detergent bottle). Secure and duct tape the lid. Place bottle inside the center of your kitchen trash, and dispose of normally. If you have *other* medical waste that needs to be disposed, please contact your doctor's office for appropriate disposal procedures.

OTC and prescription pill bottles should be tossed into your regular household trash, and put out for weekly pickup on your scheduled trash day.

Glass may be disposed of at the convenience centers or at the recycling drop off at W 8th & S Beckett.

Please continue to recycle plastic soda/water/flavored beverage bottles, milk/juice jugs, detergent and fabric softener containers, narrow neck containers (Windex bottles), plastic grocery containers, steel/tin/aluminum cans, trays, foil, plastic buckets, newspapers, junk mail, phone books, catalogs/magazines, paper book books (no hardcover books), cardboard, brown paper bags, and office/notebook/gift wrap paper.