

West Cook Recycles!

A guide to recycling in the West Cook County area



**Prepared by the Village of Westchester in cooperation with the
Westchester Environmental Sustainability Committee**

**Funded in part by the Keep Illinois Beautiful Grant provided by the
Illinois Environmental Protect Agency &
administered by the West Central Municipal Conference**



March, 2015

Residents,

According to Cook County's website, "suburban Cook County encompasses 127 municipalities, as well as unincorporated areas, with a combined population of approximately 2.5 million. Residents, businesses, and public facilities in suburban Cook County generate approximately three million tons of waste annually, which is the equivalent of ... 6.7 pounds per capita per day."

In order to assist residents in disposing of unused items, the Village of Westchester has partnered with Credential Wholesalers, Inc to recycle electronic items. A complete list of acceptable items is listed on page 3. On page 2, my administration has developed a list of helpful websites to assist you in recycling as many other items as possible – oil-based paint, cooking oils, prescription drugs, and Christmas lights, just to name a few. A list specifically for Westchester is also included. Please be sure to confirm with each organization the items you wish to recycle before attempting to drop off your items as things may change.

This booklet was designed to assist residents with learning where they may recycle items they may not be using around the home. The communities listed in this booklet are just a sample of those participating in electronic recycling in West Cook County. Please contact your Village Hall to learn more about various recycling events happening near you.

I hope that you find this resource helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Pulia', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Sam Pulia
Village President
Village of Westchester

Online Resources for Recycling

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/index
Waste Management – Recycling Guide	http://www.wm.com/thinkgreen/what-can-i-recycle.jsp
Chicago Recycling Coalition	http://www.chicagorecycling.org/
Earth911	http://www.earth911.com/recycling-center-search-guides/
Environmental Protection Agency	http://www2.epa.gov/learn-issues/learn-about-land-and-cleanup
National Christmas Tree Association	http://www.realchristmastrees.org/dnn/allabouttrees/howtorecycle.aspx
Illinois Recycling Association	http://www.illinoisrecycles.org/
All Metal Recycling	http://allmetalrecycling.net/home/1377912

Westchester Recycling Resources

Waste Management – Recycling Guide (Appendix A)	http://www.wm.com/thinkgreen/what-can-i-recycle.jsp
Environmental Sustainability Commission	http://www.westchester-il.org/index.aspx?nid=96
Credential Wholesalers, INC	http://www.credentialwholesalers.com/
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD)	https://www.mwrdd.org/iri/portal/anonymous/Home



The information listed here is provided for informational purposes only. The Village of Westchester does not represent, warrant, or endorse the accuracy or reliability of any information displayed, uploaded, downloaded, or distributed through these websites by any user, or any other person or entity. This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of organizations to donate to. The information listed is not a guarantee of services or implied acceptance of any item. Specific questions should be directed to the organization in question.

West Cook Communities Participating in Electronic Recycling - 2015

	Village of Westchester	Village of Broadview	Village of Brookfield	Town of Cicero
NOTES		Drop off at Public Works Dept	Drop off in dumpster at Village Hall; year round	The Town will pick up from residents' homes; Call the Public Works Dept to schedule an appointment
Audio Equipment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cassette Tapes	Yes	No	No	Yes
CDs	Yes	No	No	Yes
Cell Phone Accessories	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cell Phones	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Computer Peripherals - External	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CRT Computer Monitors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CRT Televisions	Yes, no wooden box frames or rear projection large screen	Yes	Yes	Yes
Desktop Computers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Digital Cameras	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
DVD Players	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fax Machines	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Floppy Disks	Yes	No	No	Yes
Game Consoles	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPS Systems	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Inkjet Cartridges	Yes	No	No	Yes
Laptop Computers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCD Computer Monitors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCD Televisions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MP3 Players	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Microwaves	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Printers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Receivers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rechargeable Batteries	Yes	No	No	Yes
Scanners	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tablets	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Telephones	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Television Accessories	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Toner Cartridges	Yes	No	No	Yes
Two-Way Radios	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vacuum Cleaners	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
VCRs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Video Tapes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Vinyl Records	No	No	No	Yes
Zip Drives	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

West Cook Communities Participating in Electronic Recycling - 2015

	Village of Countryside	Village of Elmwood Park	Village of Harwood Heights
NOTES	Call Village Hall for details	No kitchen appliances; drop off M-F 8-5pm	Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm @ Village Hall
Audio Equipment	No	No	No
Cables	No	No	Yes
Cassette Tapes	No	No	No
CDs	No	No	No
Cell Phone Accessories	No	No	Yes
Cell Phones	No	No	Yes
Computer Peripherals - External	Yes	Yes	Yes
CRT Computer Monitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
CRT Televisions	Yes	Yes	Yes
Desktop Computers	No	Yes	Yes
Digital Cameras	No	No	Yes
DVD Players	Yes	No	Yes
Fax Machines	Yes	No	Yes
Floppy Disks	No	No	No
Game Consoles	No	Yes	Yes
GPS Systems	No	No	Yes
Inkjet Cartridges	No	No	No
Laptop Computers	No	No	Yes
LCD Computer Monitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCD Televisions	Yes	Yes	Yes
MP3 Players	Yes	No	Yes
Microwaves	No	No	No
Printers	Yes	Yes	Yes
Receivers	Yes	No	Yes
Rechargeable Batteries	No	No	No
Scanners	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tablets	Yes	Yes	Yes
Telephones	No	No	Yes
Television Accessories	No	Yes	Yes
Toner Cartridges	No	No	Yes
Two-Way Radios	No	No	Yes
Vacuum Cleaners	No	No	No
VCRs	Yes	Yes	No
Video Tapes	No	No	No
Vinyl Records	No	No	No
Zip Drives	No	No	No

West Cook Communities Participating in Electronic Recycling - 2015

	Village of Hillside	Indian Head Park	Village of LaGrange Park
NOTES	Village Hall in a blue bin or at the Library; Monday through Friday, 7am-5pm, and Saturday, 9am-noon	Call Village Hall for details	3rd Saturday in October ONLY - Call Village Hall to learn more
Audio Equipment	No	No	No
Cables	Yes	No	No
Cassette Tapes	No	No	No
CDs	No	No	No
Cell Phone Accessories	Yes	No	No
Cell Phones	Yes	No	No
Computer Peripherals - External	Yes	No	No
CRT Computer Monitors	Yes	No	No
CRT Televisions	21 inch max, no wooden box frame sets	No	No
Desktop Computers	Yes	No	No
Digital Cameras	Yes	No	No
DVD Players	Yes	No	No
Fax Machines	Yes	No	No
Floppy Disks	No	No	No
Game Consoles	Yes	No	No
GPS Systems	Yes	No	No
Inkjet Cartridges	No	No	No
Laptop Computers	Yes	No	No
LCD Computer Monitors	21 inch max	No	No
LCD Televisions	Yes	No	No
MP3 Players	Yes	No	No
Microwaves	No	No	No
Printers	Yes	No	No
Receivers	Yes	No	No
Rechargeable Batteries	No	No	No
Scanners	Yes	No	No
Tablets	Yes	No	No
Telephones	Yes	No	No
Television Accessories	Yes	No	No
Toner Cartridges	Yes	No	No
Two-Way Radios	Yes	No	No
Vacuum Cleaners	No	No	No
VCRs	No	No	No
Video Tapes	No	No	No
Vinyl Records	No	No	No
Zip Drives	No	No	No

West Cook Communities Participating in Electronic Recycling - 2015

	Village of Melrose Park	Village of North Riverside	City of Northlake	Village of Oak Park
NOTES	Village Hall - inside building -Monday through Friday, 9am-10pm	Red dumpster in front of Public Works entry, year round	Drop off in Public Works only; 7:30 - 3:30 Monday through Friday	
Audio Equipment	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Cables	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Cassette Tapes	No	Yes	Yes	No
CDs	No	Yes	Yes	No
Cell Phone Accessories	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Cell Phones	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Computer Peripherals - External	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CRT Computer Monitors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CRT Televisions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Desktop Computers	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Digital Cameras	No	Yes	Yes	No
DVD Players	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fax Machines	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Floppy Disks	No	Yes	Yes	No
Game Consoles	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
GPS Systems	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Inkjet Cartridges	No	Yes	Yes	No
Laptop Computers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCD Computer Monitors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCD Televisions	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
MP3 Players	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Microwaves	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Printers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Receivers	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Rechargeable Batteries	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scanners	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tablets	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Telephones	No	Yes	Yes	No
Television Accessories	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Toner Cartridges	No	Yes	Yes	No
Two-Way Radios	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Vacuum Cleaners	No	Yes	Yes	No
VCRs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Video Tapes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Vinyl Records	No	Yes	Yes	No
Zip Drives	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

West Cook Communities Participating in Electronic Recycling - 2015

	Village of Schiller Park	Village of Stickney	Village of Willow Springs
NOTES	Container located behind Village Hall; drop off during daylight hours, 7 days a week.	Village picks up on Fridays for residents; call to schedule an appointment	Drop off at Fire Department year round
Audio Equipment	No	Yes	Yes
Cables	No	Yes	Yes
Cassette Tapes	No	Yes	Yes
CDs	No	Yes	Yes
Cell Phone Accessories	No	Yes	Yes
Cell Phones	No	Yes	Yes
Computer Peripherals - External	No	Yes	Yes
CRT Computer Monitors	No	Yes	Yes
CRT Televisions	No	Yes	Yes
Desktop Computers	No	Yes	Yes
Digital Cameras	No	Yes	Yes
DVD Players	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fax Machines	Yes	Yes	Yes
Floppy Disks	No	Yes	Yes
Game Consoles	No	Yes	Yes
GPS Systems	No	Yes	Yes
Inkjet Cartridges	No	Yes	Yes
Laptop Computers	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCD Computer Monitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
LCD Televisions	No	Yes	Yes
MP3 Players	No	Yes	Yes
Microwaves	No	Yes	Yes
Printers	No	Yes	Yes
Receivers	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rechargeable Batteries	No	Yes	Yes
Scanners	No	Yes	Yes
Tablets	No	Yes	Yes
Telephones	No	Yes	Yes
Television Accessories	No	Yes	Yes
Toner Cartridges	No	Yes	Yes
Two-Way Radios	No	Yes	Yes
Vacuum Cleaners	No	Yes	Yes
VCRs	No	Yes	Yes
Video Tapes	No	Yes	Yes
Vinyl Records	No	Yes	Yes
Zip Drives	No	Yes	Yes

APPENDIX A

Mixes Curbside Residential
Recycling

Myth Busters

by

WASTE MANAGEMENT



**RECYCLE OFTEN.
RECYCLE RIGHT.SM**

Mixed Curbside Residential Recycling Myth Busters

To Learn More Visit:
RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com

#RORR



RECYCLING RULES

1. RECYCLE ALL BOTTLES, CANS AND PAPER

2. KEEP ITEMS CLEAN AND DRY

3. NO PLASTIC BAGS

Always recycle:



Plastic Bottles & Containers

Plastic bottles, jars, jugs and tubs



Food & Beverage Cans

Tin, aluminum, steel food and beverage cans



Paper

Cardboard, paper, newspaper, paperboard, magazines



Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard

Flatten all boxes (do not bundle/tie up)

Do NOT include in your mixed recycling cart:



NO Food Waste

(Compost instead!)



NO Plastic Bags & Film

(Find a recycling site at plasticfilmrecycling.org.)



NO Foam Cups & Containers

(Check Earth911.org for options.)



NO Needles

(Keep medical waste out of recycling. Place in safe disposal containers like Waste Management's MedWaste Tracker® box.)

MYTH: Most Americans recycle all they can

ANSWER: False

Research shows convenience and commitment are required for maximum recycling. For instance, is there more than one location in a household to store recyclables? If not, recyclables in areas other than the kitchen get thrown away.

Additionally, is there only one committed recycler in a household (usually the person who picks up after everyone)? If so, studies indicate making this a family/partner affair where everyone participates, allows the most recycling of the right materials.



MYTH: The recycling arrows (Mobius) on a container means it is recyclable at a Material Recovery Facility (MRF)

ANSWER: Only in some cases

Manufacturers strive to get eco-friendly information on their product labels. It sells. The FTC requires that a product have at least 60% access to local programs (like Material Recovery Facility processing) across the U.S. to include the Mobius on their products. However, the Mobius is not

a reliable indicator of whether something gets recycled. There are thousands of plastic products and packaging, and each one has its own unique chemical recipe. Many plastics cannot be made into new products at this time. Recycle plastics by shape: bottles, jars, jugs and tabs.



MYTH: It doesn't matter if something belongs in the recycling cart, the hauler will sort everything anyway

ANSWER: False

There are increasing amounts of non-recyclables sent to Material Recovery Facilities, and every single one of them must be removed by hand by trained staff and/or mechanically sorted, or they end up contaminating high value recyclables. Non-recyclable garbage placed into recycling containers increases the cost of the recycling process and will increase the cost of garbage and recycling collection service.

Similarly, recyclable items placed into garbage containers are usually hauled to a landfill. Recyclables in a landfill cannot be recovered effectively. Even if further processing takes place, the full value is lost. The right thing to do is to put the all the right recyclables in the recycling container and non-recyclables into the garbage containers. Recyclables with the greatest impact are bottles, cans, and paper.



Plastic FAQs.

Are these items recyclable in my curbside mixed recycling program?



ITEM	ANSWER	MORE INFO
<p>Plastic bottle caps/lids</p> 	<p>Yes. After bottles are empty, plastic caps should be placed back on bottles.</p>	<p>“Until recently the plastics recycling industry was not able to effectively recycle bottles with caps on so the message to remove the cap was created. But recycling collection and processing technology have improved and demand for the recyclable material has increased and this allows for the updated caps-on recycling message and process.” Association of Post Consumer Plastic Recyclers: http://www.plasticsrecycling.org/faqs/caps-on-faqs</p>
<p>Plastic bags</p> 	<p>No. Do not put loose plastic bags or bagged recyclables into cart – empty recyclables into cart.</p>	<p>Plastic bags are not accepted in most curbside recycling programs (they get tangled in the MRF equipment, breaking or stopping machinery.) (See KAB Sept 15, 2014 campaign). Empty plastic bags should go back to a participating retail outlet or grocery store for recycling. For more information, visit: http://recycleyourplastics.org/Main/Plastic-bags-film.html OR http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/s01/s01dropoff.html</p>
<p>Plastic film</p> 	<p>No</p>	<p>Plastic stretch wrap, bubble wrap, and other plastic films get tangled in the MRF equipment, breaking or stopping machinery (See KAB Sept 15, 2014 campaign). There are also different types of plastic film that are not compatible with each other and hard to tell apart for Material Recovery Facility workers, and even harder to sell if mixed together. Plastic film should go back to a participating retail outlet or grocery store for recycling. For more information, visit: http://recycleyourplastics.org/Main/Plastic-bags-film.html OR http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/s01/s01dropoff.html</p>

MYTH: All plastics can be recycled.

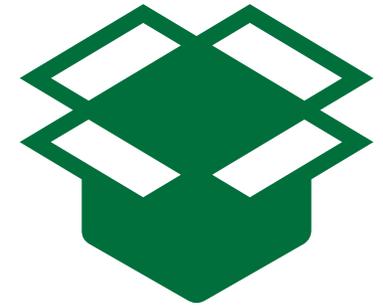
ANSWER: False

Not all plastics can be successfully recycled. At this time, only some plastics can be made into new things. Recycle plastics by shape: bottles, jars, jugs and tubs.

ITEM	ANSWER	MORE INFO
<p>Clamshell Packaging</p> 	No	<p>The plastic “to go” containers or containers holding berries, apples, bakery items, etc., are not consistently made of high-value plastic, are difficult to recycle and are usually contaminated with food when disposed. See more at: http://oregonstate.edu/sustainability/blog/2014/01/recycling-mythbusters-plastic-recyclables</p>
<p>Plastic eatery: utensils, plates and cups</p> 	No	<p>Plastic straws, utensils, including “compostable” utensils, plastic plates and plastic cups come in such a wide variety of non-usable, low-grade plastics that it is impossible to identify and separate the recyclables from the non-recyclable look-alikes (same as the clamshells). Fast food packaging, like utensils, are complicated and are not readily recovered through modern Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), or by secondary processors who buy MRF bales.</p>
<p>Chip bags, nutritional bar or candy wrappers</p> 	No	<p>There is no real end market for this, often hybrid material. In fact, there are only a few niche markets for it. Please consult your local municipality to discover any specialty recycling opportunities.</p>

Paper/Cardboard FAQs.

Are these items recyclable in my curbside mixed recycling program?



ITEM	ANSWER	MORE INFO
<p>Cartons</p> 	<p>Varies by jurisdiction</p>	<p>Juice boxes (no pouches), milk and juice cartons (emptied and rinsed, no pouches or straws) are recyclable in some areas.</p>
<p>Pizza boxes (without food or paper liners/doilies)</p> 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Clean pizza boxes (without food or paper liners/doilies) are acceptable. At one point, pizza boxes were made with a wax coating that made them not acceptable. The new pizza boxes (often with a paper doily serving as a moisture barrier) are high-potential recyclables and should be included in curbside recycling materials.</p>
<p>Single serve hot beverage cups</p> 	<p>No</p>	<p>Hot paper cups and have a plastic or waxed coating that does not break down during the re-pulping process at paper mills. The plastic lids typically used on these cups are not recyclable either (even if they have the recycling symbol on them).</p>

ITEM	ANSWER	MORE INFO
<p>Napkins, paper towels, tissues</p> 	No	<p>Napkins, paper towels and tissues are made of low-grade fiber, and are usually soiled when disposed. They are not recyclable in single stream residential Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). The cardboard tube in the middle of the roll of paper towels or toilet tissue can be recycled.</p>
<p>Shredded paper</p> 	No	<p>Shredded paper is recyclable when there are large source separated quantities of the material, directly baled, and not run over a sorting system. This is an option for commercial customers and mobile shredding companies, but does not work well for residential single-stream Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). Because of its size and elasticity, it does not separate easily from other materials, i.e. it cross-contaminates bottles and cans. It also blinds many of the technologies from working correctly in a MRF and lessens glass quality. Many municipal programs require its inclusion, but a small amount of shredded paper actually makes it back to market through MRFs.</p>
<p>Paper cups, plates</p> 	No	<p>Paper cups and plates have a plastic or waxed coating that does not break down during the re-pulping process at paper mills. The plastic lids typically used on these cups are not recyclable either (even if they have the recycling symbol on them).</p>

Glass FAQs.

Is glass recyclable in my curbside mixed recycling program?



ITEM	ANSWER	MORE INFO
<p data-bbox="104 643 388 678">Glass Bottles & Jars</p> 	<p data-bbox="664 643 826 720">Varies by jurisdiction</p>	<p data-bbox="877 643 1812 1012">Glass recycling varies by jurisdiction. Glass collection varies widely in communities across the U.S. Some communities collect glass at drop off locations only, some collect glass separately at the curb or with other containers, and many include glass with all other recyclables. Bottle bill laws in CA, CT, OR, IA, MI, ME, VT, MA, NY allow for the return of a per-bottle deposit when bottles are returned to return-centers or retailers for recycling. Please refer to your community's website for information on glass recycling in your local community.</p>

Aerosol Can FAQs.

ITEM	ANSWER	MORE INFO
<p data-bbox="104 1358 291 1392">Aerosol Cans</p> 	<p data-bbox="664 1358 826 1435">Varies by jurisdiction</p>	<p data-bbox="877 1358 1812 1812">Most of recycling programs accept empty/dry aerosol cans. Aerosol cans without the caps are recyclable if they are empty/dry. If they are not, then they could be dangerous. Some fires are caused in baler chambers from trace amounts of can chemicals, and cans have been known to become projectiles when densified/baled if propellant is still present. WM facilities and commodity vendors accept steel, mixed metal, and aluminum aerosol packages. Multi-material aerosol packages are not recyclable. There is no gray area here from a processor standpoint. However, some cities still list aerosols on their no-recycle lists. Check with your local municipality for further information.</p>

General FAQs.

1. How clean is “clean”?

Use a spatula to scrape cans and jars, e.g., peanut butter, syrup, salad dressing, oil, etc., or jugs, e.g., bleach, household non-toxic chemical cleaners, etc.

There is no need to rinse – just empty and clean. With some of our severe drought areas, rinsing makes no sense at all.

2. What about hoses, tanks, shower curtains, swing sets and everything else?

If it's not “bottles, cans or paper” it probably doesn't belong in your curbside mixed recycling cart and may even require special handling.

There are other resources (e.g., Earth911.org) that can help answer questions about what to do with non-recyclables or household hazardous waste.

