



Recycling Update

A Curbside Recycling Refresher

Washington County residents have been recycling at the curb since 1992. Twenty years later, 62 percent of our garbage was recycled instead of taken to a landfill. Residents do a great job and take pride in recycling, but there is still room for improvement.

The Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling Program is here to help residents if they have questions. Follow the guidelines below to not just recycle, but to recycle right.

Depending on your address, recycling and yard debris are collected weekly or every other week. Garbage is collected weekly. Check with your hauler if you aren't sure of your schedule. Maximize your service by setting out roll carts and bins by 6 a.m. on every collection day.

Recycling Update is produced by the Washington County Health & Human Services, Solid Waste & Recycling Program.

For more information go to www.WashingtonCountyRecycles.org, call 503-846-3605 or visit the office at 155 N First Ave, Ste 160, Hillsboro 97124.

Recycling

- **Paper and Cardboard** — Boxes, magazines, newspaper, junk mail and cartons
- **Aluminum, Tin and Aerosol Cans** — Rinse containers (empty aerosol cans)
- **Scrap Metal** — Thirty pound limit (pieces less than 30 inches long)
- **Plastic Bottles, Buckets and Tubs** — Rinse containers (sizes between 6 ounces and 5 gallons)



Yard Debris

- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Pruned branches (less than 4 inches around and less than 36 inches long)
- Weeds



Garbage

- Bowls, plates and drinking glasses
- Food scraps
- Frozen food boxes
- Lids and straws
- Paper or plastic plates and cups
- Pet waste
- Pizza boxes
- Soiled diapers
- Window glass, vases and mirrors

Some items can be taken to a drop-off recycling center. See page three for more information.



What to Do With Bulky Items



- **Drop-off for reuse or recycling:** Use Metro’s “Find a Recycler” tool to find options for donating and recycling bulky items such as gently used furniture or appliances at www.OregonMetro.gov/FindaRecycler.
- **Drop-off at garbage facility:** Take bulky items for disposal to the Tualatin Valley Waste Recovery facility in Hillsboro or a transfer station in Portland or Forest Grove — for disposal site contact information and locations, see page eight.
- **Call your hauler for curbside pick-up:** Arrange for pick-up from the curb by your hauler. Bulky waste collection is not included in regularly scheduled collection services — call your hauler for details.

For more information, call the Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling Program at 503-846-3605.

New Recycling Videos Online



New videos on the basics of recycling at home — in English and Spanish — are now available. Additional features include glass and metal recycling, what to do with plastic bags, how to reduce junk mail and more. Videos can be found at www.WashingtonCountyRecycles.org by clicking on “Tools and Resources.” Washington County’s Solid Waste & Recycling Program also has a garbage and recycling video playlist on YouTube, under username WashingtonCntyOregon.

How Curbside Collection Works

What happens to all the stuff you set out at the curb? Our recycling, yard debris and garbage all take different paths, ending up as new products or being disposed of in a landfill.

Recycling

Recycling collected from the curb or street is taken by private haulers to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) such as Far West Fibers in Hillsboro or Beaverton. Machinery and people at the MRF sort the recycling. Sorted materials are sold and shipped to local, national and international markets as feedstock to be re-introduced into manufacturing processes.

Yard debris

Yard debris is hauled to one of ten yard debris collection facilities throughout the county. Compost facilities accept yard debris and untreated wood which are then processed into compost and sold to local farmers or landscapers as soil amendment.

Garbage

Most of the garbage from Washington County is hauled from homes to a transfer station, then transferred into tractor trailers and hauled to the Riverbend Landfill, a sanitary landfill located near McMinnville, Oregon. Garbage is contained in “cells” lined with thick plastic and clay to protect the surrounding environment.

Our curbside program:

- Keeps our community tidy and clean with roll carts and bins so different types of materials don’t blow around, pile up or make a mess.
- Is more convenient and often cheaper than hauling your own materials to a landfill, transfer station or drop-off recycling center.
- Conserves natural resources, energy and money by creating new products from recycling and yard debris.
- Increases business for recycling companies — boosting the economy and creating jobs.

Request a Recycling Guide

Find information on waste prevention, reuse, recycling and disposal, plus local hauler and government contact information in just one place. Request a FREE “Residential Recycling Guide” by calling 503-846-3605 or emailing recycle@co.washington.or.us.



Glass Recycling at the Curb

What do you get when you combine silicon dioxide, sodium oxide, lime and several additives and heat the mix to about 2,300 degrees Fahrenheit? You get molten glass that can be formed into a bottle or jar. Glass bottles and jars can be recycled over and over again. Recycling glass helps conserve natural resources by offsetting the need for raw materials in manufacturing.

Curbside recycling in Washington County includes glass collection. However, glass must be kept on the side and not mixed with other recyclables in curbside roll carts. When glass is included with other recyclables, it breaks and gets mixed with the other materials. Broken glass damages processing equipment and put workers at risk.



Residents can recycle glass bottles and jars in a red curbside bin or other clearly labeled rigid container. Set it next to recycling roll carts. Window glass, mirrors, drinking glass and ceramics have different melting points and cannot be included in the glass recycling. For more information about glass recycling, visit www.WashingtonCountyRecycles.org.

Take Styrofoam™ to Drop-off Recycling Centers



Block Styrofoam™ takes up a lot of space in the garbage and it cannot be added to curbside recycling roll carts. Most residents don't have much use for it around the house, so what should you do with it? One option is to take it to a drop-off recycling center.

There are several drop-off recycling centers in Washington County that will accept Styrofoam™ — also known as expanded polystyrene (EPS). EPS blocks and sheets break with a “snap” and do not bend. Many meat trays and some egg cartons are made from EPS. Items need to be rinsed before being taken to a drop-off recycling center.

EPS “popcorn” or “peanut” packaging is not accepted at drop-off recycling centers. However, many local shipping stores may take it for reuse.

There are three drop-off recycling centers that will accept EPS in Washington County:

Far West Fibers Beaverton

10750 SW Denney Rd
503-643-9944

www.FarWestFibers.com

Far West Fibers Hillsboro

6440 SE Alexander St
503-643-9944

www.FarWestFibers.com

Pride Disposal Service – Sherwood/Tualatin

13910 SW Tualatin-Sherwood Rd
503-625-0725

www.PrideDisposal.com

Drop-off recycling centers take many items that cannot go into curbside recycling roll carts. However, the list of what can be accepted does change with global recycling market demands. Call ahead to find out if the material you have is accepted. For more information on drop-off recycling centers and what is accepted for recycling, visit www.OregonMetro.gov/FindaRecycler or call 503-234-3000.

Take Plastic Chairs and More to Drop-Off Recycling Centers



Did you know that bulky, rigid, plastic items that cannot be included in curbside recycling roll carts can be recycled at drop-off recycling centers? This includes the following plastic items:

- Child play structures
- Crates
- Garbage containers
- Laundry baskets
- Lawn furniture
- Storage bins
- And more

Find out which items are accepted at drop-off recycling centers by visiting www.OregonMetro.gov/FindaRecycler or by calling 503-234-3000.

Improved Rural Recycling Collection Service



Rural residents who don't subscribe to garbage and recycling collection service may have seen their neighbors' new recycling roll carts on the roadside in the last year.

Rural residents have new reasons to subscribe to roadside collection service:

- New 90-gallon recycling roll carts have lids to keep your recyclables contained and dry.
- Roll carts can be wheeled to the road.
- Recycling roll carts offer more volume than small bins used with the old program.
- Recycling collection has increased to every-other-week pick-up.

Garbage service remains the same — it's collected weekly, in separate roll carts or cans.

Residents can subscribe to garbage and recycling collection service with costs ranging from \$21.03 per month for a 20-gallon garbage roll cart or can to \$40.71 for a 90-gallon roll cart or can.

It costs residents \$28 or more to take and dispose of household garbage at a transfer station, plus the time and gas it costs to drive there. To set up service, contact the hauler that provides service for your address — see “Contact information” on page eight for more information.

Did you know:

Burning or burying household garbage or construction debris is a violation of county and state codes. Fumes from burning garbage and debris can harm your family, pets and neighbors. Burning or burying garbage also pollutes the environment. Household garbage and recycling must be taken to a transfer station or picked up by garbage and recycling haulers. See page eight for more information.

Reusable Bag Tips



- Wash reusable bags. Similar to kitchen counters, sponges and towels, reusable bags need to be washed regularly.
- Keep reusable bags where they will not be forgotten — in a vehicle, bike bag, purse or near the front door — return them after each use.

Did you know:

- The average American family uses 1,500 plastic single-use shopping bags each year.
- Plastic bags account for almost one-third of the labor costs at recycling facilities by jamming machinery and shutting down operations.

Live With Less Stuff



Are you dealing with a mountain of clutter at home? Do you have things in storage that you don't use more than a few times a year? More and more people are looking to simplify their lives, and save money by changing how they purchase goods. Here are some suggestions for residents who want to live more with less stuff, conserve natural resources and reduce waste:

- Borrow things from neighbors or rent from a local store.
- Fix and maintain the stuff you have.
- Give the gift of experiences for birthdays and holidays.
- Shop for used items before buying new.
- Check cupboards and freezers before going to the grocery store.

Think Long-Term With Home Remodels

Are you thinking of remodeling this year? An important question to ask yourself is, "How long do I intend to live here?" Residents with remodeling plans that include aging gracefully in their current home, may want to consider long-term needs during remodels. Long-term planning helps avoid additional remodeling expenses in the future, conserves building materials and reduces waste.

Remodelers may want to:

- Plan a deck, patio or balcony that is less than a half-inch below interior floor levels.
- Avoid step-downs between rooms or areas on the same level.
- Plan for 36-inch wide hallways and doorways.
- Install non-slip flooring.
- Place easy-to-use window hardware that is within reach while sitting.
- Create multi-level work surfaces in the kitchen to accommodate various positions.



Learn more

Find more remodeling tips from the National Association of Homebuilders at www.NAHB.org.

Donate Used Building Materials

Home renovation projects, whether you are building up or taking down, can be good for the community and cost less when you take advantage of building material re-use centers. Donating usable materials is less expensive than disposal and re-use centers have great deals on gently used materials for renovation projects.



Learn more

More information about recycling and re-using building materials can be found at www.OregonMetro.gov/Toolkit.

Building material re-use centers take gently used building materials and give them a new life. Depending on the location, donations can include:

- Appliances
- Bricks
- Cabinets
- Ceramic tiles
- Doors
- Furniture
- Gutters
- Insulation
- Light fixtures
- Pipes
- Roofing
- Sinks
- Windows
- Wood
- And more

Building material re-use locations:
Building Material Resources, Inc.
 14175 SW Galbreath Dr
 Sherwood 97140 | 503-345-9805
www.MaterialForLess.com

Forest Grove Habitat for Humanity ReStore
 3731 Pacific Ave
 Forest Grove 97116 | 503-357-1201
www.FGReStore.org

Washington County ReStore
 13475 SW Millikan Way
 Beaverton 97005 | 503-906-3823
www.PDXReStore.org

Home Composting – as Easy as 1, 2, 3

Making your own compost at home is easy and rewarding. First you need something to contain the compost. Many residents choose the black Enviro World bins Metro offers at a reduced price. Compost is made by combining one part “greens,” two parts “browns,” some time, a little mixing and some water. Finished compost can be spread around the base of plants and trees to help them grow.

A good base for your compost includes “brown” materials such as straw, small woody prunings or leaves. “Greens” consist of materials such as vegetable scraps, grass clippings and coffee grounds. New materials should be mixed in — air is important to the process. Water should be added if the compost is drier than a wet sponge.

Finished compost looks a lot like coffee grounds — dark and crumbly. Making compost is more of an art than a science — no one way is exactly right.



Learn more

For tips, tools and bin designs, or to purchase a bin, visit www.OregonMetro.gov/Compost or call 503-234-3000.

Recycle Scrap Wood and Lumber



Unwanted scrap wood from home improvement projects can be recycled by taking it to one of several drop-off locations in Washington County. Recycled wood is ground up and used to generate heat and electricity. Recyclers will take untreated wood, and some will accept pressure-treated lumber as well. That includes dimensional lumber, sheeting, crates and pallets. For a list of recyclers, what they accept and locations, visit www.OregonMetro.gov/FindaRecycler or call 503-234-3000. Wood that has been painted or stained needs to be taken to a disposal facility — see “Disposal facilities” on page eight. Or, cut the scraps down to fit into your garbage roll cart.

Get Your Bottle and Can Deposit Back

Oregon started its five cent beverage container deposit system in 1971 — the nation’s first — with the purpose of reducing litter and increasing recycling. Shoppers pay five cents for each container at the check-out stand and that money is refunded when the empty containers are returned. Deposit containers can be returned to most retail outlets that sell them, such as grocery stores. Starting in 2009, flavored, mineral, soda and regular water bottles were added to the list of what can be redeemed. This is in addition to the beer, malt beverage and carbonated soda bottles and cans that have been redeemable since the program started.

Cans and bottles should be left whole so the bar codes are readable. Taking deposit containers back to retailers allows you to redeem your five cent deposit and ensure the containers get recycled — a win-win.



Learn more

To learn more about the container deposit program, visit www.KnowYourNickel.org

Food by the Numbers:



- An estimated 14.5 percent of American families lacked access to enough food for an active, healthy lifestyle for all household members in 2012.
- In 2009, eighteen percent of the waste sent to landfills in the Metro tri-county area was food.
- Up to 40 percent of food grown in the U.S. goes to waste.
- The average American family throws away about 25 percent of the food and beverages they buy — valued at \$1,365 to \$2,275 each year.
- By recovering and redistributing just 15 percent of the discarded edible food in the U.S., 25 million hungry Americans could be fed.

Re-Use Business Spotlight: Community Warehouse



With warehouses in Portland and Tualatin, Community Warehouse diverted 517 tons of usable goods from the landfill in 2013 while helping nearly 8,000 low-income individuals and families transition into permanent housing. Customers are referred by social service agencies to access the warehouse and select the items they need. Not only is donating household goods and furniture to Community Warehouse a great way to help those in need, it also keeps usable items out of the landfill. To learn more or arrange a donation, visit www.CommunityWarehouse.org.

Take Workplace Recycling to the Next Level



Motivating co-workers can be easy with the right tools. The Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling Program is providing businesses with Green Team kits including reusable, durable coffee cups and reusable bags, posters, recycling decals, information and more. Contact the Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling Program at 503-846-3605 for more information.

Businesses and Organizations Collect Food Scraps

More than a dozen businesses and organizations have joined the Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling Program's new pilot program for commercial food scraps collection. The pilot program began in early 2014 in partnership with garbage haulers and the cities of Sherwood, Tualatin and Hillsboro and unincorporated Washington County.

Participating businesses separate food scraps from their garbage. The food scraps are then picked up by a hauler and transferred to processing facilities in the Willamette Valley. There, the food scraps are processed to generate electricity and create a nutrient-rich fertilizer.



Each week, the Village Inn in Tualatin prevents 180 gallons of food scraps from ending up in a landfill.

Learn more

If your business or organization is interested in learning more about food scraps collection, contact the Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling Program at 503-846-3605.

Caruso Produce Reduces Garbage by Donating Food

In February and March 2014, fruit and vegetable wholesaler Caruso Produce in Tualatin donated more than 31,000 pounds of nutritious fruits and vegetables to the Oregon Food Bank. Starting in 2014, the Oregon Food Bank has been sending a truck twice a week to pick up any fruits or vegetables that are edible but not saleable. The Oregon Food Bank then redistributes it to people in need in Washington County and the Metro area.

Caruso Produce has already seen the benefits of donating food. Not only has it saved on garbage disposal costs, the donation also qualifies for an enhanced tax deduction. As an added bonus, Caruso employees feel good knowing that this food helps feed hungry people.



Mikey Caruso holds a flat of tomatoes set aside for donation to the Oregon Food Bank.

Learn more

To learn more about how your commercial kitchen or grocery store can donate food, call the Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling Program at 503-846-3605.

Business Assistance by the Numbers

- Seventy-three businesses and institutions have been awarded the *Recycle at Work Award* for recycling and waste prevention practices.
- County staff have assisted 276 businesses and institutions to improve recycling and increase waste prevention in 2013 — 2,000 since 2008.

Grow a Non-toxic Garden

We try to keep toxic chemicals out of our homes but often don't consider the impact of landscaping chemicals. There are many ways to create a beautiful, healthy and, most importantly, a safe yard and garden without harmful chemicals. Metro and Oregon State University Extension offer free information and resources on natural gardening. Resources cover topics including:

- Composting at home
- Managing moss
- Controlling pests
- Choosing native plants
- Picking non-toxic products

Learning formats include short instructional videos, guides, phone hotlines and more. Grow a garden this year that's abundant and attractive, as well as safe for children, pets and the natural environment. Visit www.OregonMetro.gov/Garden or call 503-234-3000 for more information.



Learn more

Washington County
Master Gardeners
503-821-1150
www.MetroMasterGardeners.org

Metro's "Grow Smart,
Grow Safe Guide"
www.GrowSmartGrowSafe.org

Use Less Toxic Lawn Fertilizer

We barbeque, play with our kids and pets, and entertain guests on our lawns. So why do we apply harsh toxic chemicals to it? There are many products on the market for fertilizing lawns. With so many choices it can be difficult to determine which ones are less toxic to your family and pets. Metro has developed a great tool to help you choose safe products called "Grow Smart, Grow Safe." Visit the online, interactive directory at www.GrowSmartGrowSafe.org to find more information.

One of the keys to a healthy lawn is healthy soil. Residents can take a sample of soil to the Washington County Cooperative Extension Service to find out what can be added to make it healthier. Another toxic free option is to grasscycle. Grasscycling is the process of leaving grass clippings on your lawn and letting it contribute nutrients to the soil. Grasscycling can add more than 50 percent of the fertilizer a lawn needs to be healthy. When it comes time to add fertilizer, look for products in the "Grow Smart, Grow Safe" guide.



Leftover fertilizers and other household hazardous chemicals also pose a risk to your family and pets. Take these chemicals to one of Metro's two hazardous waste facilities or to a household hazardous waste collection event.

Learn more

To learn more about reducing toxics and making your lawn safe, visit www.GrowSmartGrowSafe.org.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

Metro offers free household hazardous waste collection events for residents of Washington County. Collection events take place across the county throughout the spring and summer. You can drop off up to five gallons of hazardous material per container and 35 gallons per load. Unsure of what is considered hazardous? Look for labels that say warning, caution or poison. For more information about household hazardous waste and a complete schedule of events, go to www.OregonMetro.gov/HHW or call 503-234-3000.

How to Prepare and Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste



- Store products in a secure place, away from children, pets and extreme heat.
- Keep products in original containers.
- Do not mix products together.
- Properly seal containers to prevent leaks and spills.
- Pack containers in sturdy cardboard boxes.

Learn more

For more information on household hazardous waste facility locations, hours and fees, see page eight.

Contact Information

Call Your Hauler for Garbage and Recycling Questions



In Washington County, garbage and recycling are collected by private companies. Each company has a specific service area. If you have questions about your service, schedule or bill, contact your hauler. Don't know who your garbage and recycling hauler is? Check using Metro's "Who's My Hauler" tool, at www.OregonMetro.gov/Hauler, or call Washington County at 503-846-3605 for help.

Find your hauler:

503-234-3000
www.OregonMetro.gov/Hauler

Aloha Garbage Co., Inc.

503-649-6727
www.AlohaGarbageCo.com

Cornelius Disposal Service

503-357-3510
www.CorneliusDisposalService.com

Garbarino Disposal Service

503-647-2335
www.GarbarinoDisposal.com

Hillsboro Garbage Disposal, Inc.

503-648-4219
www.HillsboroGarbage.com

Pride Disposal Company

503-625-6177
www.PrideDisposal.com

Republic Services, Inc.

(formerly Allied Waste)
503-636-3011
www.RepublicServicesNW.com

Swatco Sanitary Service, Inc.

503-324-0230
www.SwatcoSanitaryService.com

Valley West Refuse Disposal

503-649-5252
www.ValleyWestRefuse.com

Walker Garbage Service

503-531-6330
www.WalkerGarbage.com

Waste Management of Oregon

800-808-5901
www.WMNorthwest.com

West Slope Garbage Service

503-292-8173
www.WestSlopeGarbage.com

Questions about Waste Prevention and Recycling for Home and Work

Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling Program | 155 N First Ave, Ste 160, Hillsboro 97124
503-846-3605 | 800-735-1232 (English TTY) | recycle@co.washington.or.us

Recycle and Dispose of Other Items

Find a Recycler

Locate a drop-off recycling center that will accept recyclables that don't go in your roll cart. For a full list of items and locations, call 503-234-3000 or visit www.OregonMetro.gov/FindaRecycler.

Medical Syringes, Lancets and Needles (Sharps)

Storing and disposing of sharps properly limits risk to workers collecting and sorting garbage or recycling. Used sharps can be disposed of at a household hazardous waste facility, collection event, local pharmacy or by joining a pharmacy exchange program. Sharps must be contained in an approved, rigid, leak-proof container that is clearly labeled — available from a pharmacy, exchange program or collection site. For more information, visit www.WashingtonCountyRecycles.org and click on "Garbage Haulers."

Free Electronics Recycling Program

Recycle computers, monitors, laptops and TVs free through the Oregon E-Cycles program. Learn more at www.OregonEcycles.com or by calling 888-5-ECYCLE.

Unwanted Medication Drop-Off

Take back prescriptions, over-the-counter meds and vitamins to secure drop-off boxes at the Washington County Sheriff's Office in Hillsboro and City Police Departments in Beaverton, Forest Grove, Sherwood and Tigard. Contact locations for hours and acceptable items.

Disposal Facilities

Forest Grove Transfer Station

1525 B St
Forest Grove 97116 | 503-992-1212
No hazardous waste

Tualatin Valley

Waste Recovery Facility
(co-located with Hillsboro Landfill)
3205 SE Minter Bridge Rd
Hillsboro 97123 | 503-640-9427
No household garbage, kitchen waste or hazardous waste

Metro Central Transfer Station and Household Hazardous Waste Facility

6161 NW 61st St
Portland 97210 | 503-234-3000

Metro South Transfer Station and Household Hazardous Waste Facility

2001 Washington St
Oregon City 97045 | 503-234-3000

For more information about rates and hours, please call ahead.



WASHINGTON COUNTY
OREGON

Department of Health and Human Services
Solid Waste & Recycling Program

This publication is produced in cooperation with the cities of Banks, Cornelius, Durham, Forest Grove, Hillsboro, King City, North Plains, Sherwood, Tigard and Tualatin.

Missed the last Recycling Update?

Catch up online! Visit WashingtonCountyRecycles.org and click "Tools & Resources."