

# Getting involved in recycling:

*Recycling involves the separation and collection of materials for processing and remanufacturing into new products, and the use of the products to complete the cycle.*

## MAKE SURE TO PUT TRASH WHERE IT BELONGS...

### SOME SIMPLE GUIDELINES:

- **Know your local waste hauling service; use them as a resource about proper disposal.** If you don't know your local waste hauler, phone your borough, township or city to inquire about service. To find a drop off location near you go to [http://www.dep.state.pa.us/wm\\_apps/RecyclingLocations/](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/wm_apps/RecyclingLocations/).
- **Ask about special pickups for bulky** household items, like furniture, or how you should properly dispose of items in question.
- **Recycle scrap metal** by contacting local scrap dealers or your waste hauler; check your local yellow pages under "Scrap Metals" or "Recycling Centers." Some dealers will PAY you for your materials!
- **Consider donating** furniture or household goods instead of throwing them away. Charities such as the Salvation Army, Goodwill, or local thrift shops will accept donations of these items in reasonable condition. Clothing and children's toys are usually accepted as well by these charities.
- **Learn how to discard suspected hazardous materials**, medical wastes, or animal carcasses by contacting your county recycling coordinator.
- **Look for a motor oil recovery location** in your area by going to [http://www.dep.state.pa.us/cgi\\_apps/oil/](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/cgi_apps/oil/). Find a local outlet participating in Pennsylvania's Motor Oil Recycling program. Anti-freeze is also recyclable.

## Did you know...?

- The oil equivalent of 35 Exxon Valdez tankers is dumped into our nation's rivers, lakes, and streams every year! And used motor oil is far more deadly than crude oil.
- 100,000 marine mammals die each year from eating or becoming entangled in plastic debris.
- Mowing the lawn for half an hour can produce as much smog as driving a new car 172 miles.
- The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle will keep a light bulb burning for 4 hours!
- If you throw away an aluminum can, it wastes as much energy as if you filled that can half full of gasoline and poured it on the ground.
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough electricity to power a TV or a 100-watt light bulb for three hours.
- One aluminum can will litter the Earth for 500 years.

- 100 million trees are cut down every year to make the paper for “junk mail”. One-half of junk mail is thrown away unopened and unread.
- Recycling half the world’s paper would free 20 million acres of forestland.
- Recycling a 4 foot stack of newspaper saves a 40 foot pine tree.
- Running in our polluted air for half an hour is equivalent to inhaling the carbon monoxide in a pack of cigarettes.
- In Houston, more people are likely to die this year from breathing our air than from accidents on our streets and highways.

**Wondering what to recycling?  
LOOK NO FURTHER!!**

**Here is a list of what CAN AND CAN'T be RECYCLED!**

Material	What Can Be Recycled	What Can't Be Recycled	How to Prepare for Recycling
<b>Glass</b>	Clear, amber and green glass from beverage bottles and food jars	Window glass, light bulbs, crystal, ceramics, ovenware	Rinse bottles and jars, remove lids, leave labels on. In some programs, separate by color.
<b>Paper</b>	Newspapers, corrugated paper, office paper, computer paper, magazines, catalogs, "junk" mail	Waxed paper, coated paper, tissue paper	Separate by type of paper. Tie in bundles or put in paper bags. Check with your local program.
<b>Aluminum</b>	Aluminum beverage cans	Check with your local program to see if pie plates, clean foil, aluminum siding, and lawn furniture can be recycled.	A magnet will not attract aluminum. Rinse cans, crush if you need the space.
<b>Steel Cans</b>	Food and beverage cans, empty aerosol and paint cans	Check with your local program	Rinse food and beverage cans. Empty aerosol cans through normal use. Paint cans must be empty, with no more than a skin of dried paint.
<b>Plastic</b>	Clear plastic soda bottles, 1-gallon milk and water jugs, laundry product containers (1 PET or PETE and 2 HDPE)	Motor oil bottles and plastics coded 3-7 not recycled widely yet	May have to separate by types of plastic and remove metal. Rinse and flatten if you need space.
<b>Motor Oil</b>	Oil from cans or other vehicles	Oil contaminated with anti-freeze	Store in sturdy container and bring to an auto service station that accepts used oil.
<b>Used Car Batteries (lead-acid)</b>	Batteries from cars, trucks and motorcycles	Non-rechargeable household batteries not widely recycled. Find out where to recycle rechargeables at <a href="http://www.rbrc.org">www.rbrc.org</a>	Store intact. Exchange when purchasing a new battery, or take to an approved recycled center.

**For any questions or concerns about recycling go to:**

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/wm/recycle/recycle.htm>

**Or**

Call the Pennsylvania Recycling Hotline:  
1-800-346-4242

**Works Cited:**

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/wm/RECYCLE/Recywrks/recywrks1.htm>

<http://www.cleanpaforests.org/disposal.html>

<http://www.kingwoodgreeninfo.org/recyclingfacts.html>

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/wm/RECYCLE/Recywrks/recywrks4.htm>