

How do I dispose of...

Below is a list of common items and how to properly dispose of them, in alphabetical order to make it easier to find the item you're looking for!

Accuracy. Both the City and Waste Control do their best to review and keep current all of the information found on this page as well as the recycling website itself. While updating these sources is relatively quick and easy to do, those changes may not appear in our printed material, such as the recycling brochure, until the existing supply runs out and a new order is made.

Composting. At this time, the City does not have a yard waste program. Contact the Cowlitz County Public Works Department (360-577-3126) to see if composting units are in stock to purchase (\$10) to set up composting at your residence. If you do not have an area for composting, those items noted below in the blue composting column should be discarded in your green garbage container.

If you have questions about an item or would like to add to the list, please use the Feedback form and let us hear from you! This list is updated quarterly with your suggestions.

ITEM	R E C Y C L E	C O M P O S T	G A R B A G E	O T H E R	COMMENTS / ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS
Aerosol cans			■	■	Waste Control Household Hazardous Facility
Aluminum cans	■				
Animal feces			■		Place in a bag
Animals, dead			■	■	Some veterinarians will accept
Antifreeze bottles (empty)			■		
Appliances	■				Waste Control Recycling Center
Aseptic containers (soy milk and broth)			■		
Baked goods			■		
Batteries, alkaline			■	■	Waste Control Household Hazardous Facility

Yellow shaded areas: Recent addition/modification

Last Updated: April 2015

ITEM	R E C Y C L E	C O M P O S T	G A R B A G E	O T H E R	COMMENTS / ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS
Batteries, other				■	Waste Control Household Hazardous Facility
Batteries, rechargeable				■	Waste Control Household Hazardous Facility
Birdseed bags (paper only)	■				
Bleach jugs	■				
Bones, (meat, seafood, raw or cooked)		■	■		
Books, hardcover	■				Please remove the hard cover
Books, paperback	■				
Boxes, cereal and cracker	■				Remove plastic liner
Boxes, drink with foil inside (small kid size)			■		
Boxes, frozen food	■				
Boxes, juice (small foil-lined)			■		
Boxes, produce (waxed)			■		
Boxes, shoe	■				
Branches		■	■		Two inches or less in diameter
Bread bags (no crumbs)			■	■	Grocery stores
Bubble wrap			■	■	UPS Store
Cardboard	■				
Cartons, ice cream (box or tub)			■		
Cartons, juice and milk (also soy milk)	■				Remove plastic spout

Yellow shaded areas: Recent addition/modification

Last Updated: April 2015

ITEM	R E C Y C L E	C O M P O S T	G A R B A G E	O T H E R	COMMENTS / ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS
Cartons, soda and beer	■				
Ceramic items			■	■	Goodwill Industries
Cereal boxes	■				Remove plastic liner
Clothes			■	■	Goodwill Industries, Salvation Army
Clothes hangers (plastic and metal)			■	■	Goodwill Industries, Cleaners
Coffee grounds and filters		■	■		
Dairy products (cheese, etc.)		■	■		
Diapers			■		
Eggshells		■	■		
Electronics (computers, laptops, monitors, and televisions)				■	Waste Control Recycling Center, Goodwill Industries
Electronics (printers, mouse, keyboards, fax machines and other electronics)			■		
Electronics (cell phones)			■	■	Your current provider may accept them
Fire extinguisher (full, empty or expired)			■	■	Waste Control Household Hazardous Facility
Floral trimmings, flowers		■	■		
Foil (clean)	■				
Food, plate scrapings and leftovers		■	■		
Food, scraps		■	■		
Food-soiled cardboard (pizza boxes)			■		
Food-spoiled paper (paper plates and cups)			■		

Yellow shaded areas: Recent addition/modification

Last Updated: April 2015

ITEM	R E C Y C L E	C O M P O S T	G A R B A G E	O T H E R	COMMENTS / ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS
Food-spoiled foil			■		
Fruit		■	■		
Glass, beer and wine bottles	■				No need to remove paper labels
Glass, dishes or bowls			■	■	Goodwill Industries
Glass, drinking glasses			■	■	Goodwill Industries
Glass, figurines/decorative objects			■	■	Goodwill Industries
Glass, food jars	■				
Glass, tempered (shower doors)			■		
Glass, window			■		
Grass clippings		■	■		Place in plastic bags for garbage
Keys (brass or steel)	■				
Kitty litter			■		Please place in bag and tie
Leaves		■	■		Place in plastic bags for garbage
Light bulbs, energy-efficient			■	■	Home Depot
Light bulbs, fluorescent			■		Fluorescent tubes from residential may be thrown into the garbage. Commercial tubes, please contact Waste Control, 360-425-4302.
Light bulbs, regular			■		
Meat, raw or cooked		■	■		
Medication			■	■	Leave medication in original containers so the prescription can be identified. Black out your name. Bring to the Waste Control Household Hazardous Facility

Yellow shaded areas: Recent addition/modification

Last Updated: April 2015

ITEM	R E C Y C L E	C O M P O S T	G A R B A G E	O T H E R	COMMENTS / ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS
Metal, clothes hangers			■	■	Goodwill Industries, Cleaners (unbroken)
Metal, dishes or bowls			■	■	Goodwill Industries
Metal, large items (engine blocks)				■	Waste Control Recycling Center
Metal, pots and pans	■			■	Goodwill Industries
Metal, scrap				■	Waste Control Recycling Center
Microwave oven – metal exterior	■			■	Waste Control Recycling Center
Microwave oven – plastic exterior			■		Plastic is not a 1 or 2
Milk cartons (also soy milk)	■				Has a wax-type exterior
Mirrors			■		
Motor Oil and Hazardous waste containers				■	Waste Control Household Hazardous Facility
Newspaper	■	■			
Paper cups		■	■		
Paper egg cartons	■	■			
Paper grocery and lunch bags	■				
Paper napkins or towels		■	■		
Paper plates		■	■		
Paper sticky notes	■				
Paper, cardboard	■				
Paper, computer	■				

Yellow shaded areas: Recent addition/modification

Last Updated: April 2015

ITEM	R E C Y C L E	C O M P O S T	G A R B A G E	O T H E R	COMMENTS / ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS
Paper, copy	■				
Paper, disposable cups, plates, utensils		■	■		
Paper, envelopes	■				
Paper, file folders	■				
Paper, freezer paper			■		
Paper, frozen food boxes	■				
Paper, glossy (advertisements)	■				
Paper, hardcover and paperback books	■				
Paper, juice boxes	■				
Paper, junk mail	■				
Paper, magazines (dull and glossy)	■				
Paper, mailing envelopes (plastic or bubble - lined)			■		
Paper, manila envelopes	■				
Paper, microwave popcorn bags			■		
Paper, shredded	■				Place in a paper bag
Paper, tissue and toilet			■		
Paper, waxed			■		
Paper, foil food wrapping			■		
Paperback books	■				

Yellow shaded areas: Recent addition/modification

Last Updated: April 2015

ITEM	R E C Y C L E	C O M P O S T	G A R B A G E	O T H E R	COMMENTS / ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS
Pasta		■	■		
Pet food		■	■		
Pet food bags (layer of plastic inside)			■		
Pet waste (from a cat or dog)			■		Place in a bag
Phone books	■				
Photographs and photographic paper			■		
Pizza		■	■		
Pizza boxes			■		
Plants		■	■		
Plastic bags			■	■	Grocery stores
Plastic buckets (kitty litter)	■				
Plastic butter and margarine tubs	■				Plastic No. 1 and 2 only
Plastic cups			■		
Plastic film and saran wrap			■		
Plastic food containers			■		
Plastic grocery and retail bags			■	■	Grocery stores
Plastic or Styrofoam egg cartons			■		
Plastic straws			■		
Plastic utensils			■		

Yellow shaded areas: Recent addition/modification

Last Updated: April 2015

ITEM	R E C Y C L E	C O M P O S T	G A R B A G E	O T H E R	COMMENTS / ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS
Plastic, beverage bottles	■				
Plastic, CD, DVD & Jewel cases			■		
Plastic, cellophane			■		
Plastic, clothes hangars			■	■	Goodwill Industries
Plastic, coffee cup lids			■		
Plastic, dairy tubs (cottage cheese, sour cream)	■				Plastic No. 1 and 2 only
Plastic, detergent bottles and jugs	■				
Plastic, dishes or bowls			■	■	Goodwill Industries
Plastic, frozen food bags			■		
Plastic, jugs	■				
Plastic, juice bottles	■				
Plastic, lids, caps and tops			■		
Plastic, liquor bottles	■				
Plastic, milk jugs	■				
Plastic, over-the-counter medicine bottles	■				Place the caps into the garbage
Plastic, plant pots			■	■	Goodwill Industries
Plastic, shampoo and conditioner bottles	■				
Plastic, snack and chip bags			■		
Plastic, soap and lotion bottles	■				

Yellow shaded areas: Recent addition/modification

Last Updated: April 2015

ITEM	R E C Y C L E	C O M P O S T	G A R B A G E	O T H E R	COMMENTS / ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS
Plastic, soda and pop bottles	■				
Plastic, water bottles	■				
Plastic, yogurt cups	■				Plastic No. 1 and 2 only
Plastic, foil juice pouches			■		
Propane tanks				■	Do not place in the garbage. Please bring this item to the Household Hazardous Facility at Waste Control - \$5 charge; or, you may recycle if the container is empty and the valve is removed.
Pyrex			■		
Seasonal greens (wreaths, etc.)		■	■		
Styrofoam (blocks, containers or peanuts)			■		
Teabags or leaves		■	■		
Thermostats (with mercury)				■	Do not place in the garbage. Please bring this item to the Household Hazardous Facility at Waste Control – at no charge.
Tin cans	■				No need to crush or take off the paper labels
Vegetables		■	■		
VHS, CDs, DVDs			■		
Weeds		■	■		
Wood, crates			■		Waste Control Recycling Center
Wood, popsicle sticks		■	■		
Wood, treated and painted			■		

Yellow shaded areas: Recent addition/modification

Last Updated: April 2015

ITEM	R E C Y C L E	C O M P O S T	G A R B A G E	O T H E R	COMMENTS / ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS
Wood, untreated (no paint or stain)				■	Waste Control Recycling Center
Yard trimmings		■	■		
	■	■	■	■	