

# RECYCLING GUIDE

**For Commercial Recycling Customers**

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**Thank you for choosing the City of Detroit to be  
your recycling collection provider!**

## **Contents:**

- Program information
- Tips for successful recycling
- Avoiding contamination
- Your service day flyer
- Signage
- Residential recycling flyer



# WELCOME

## to the City of Detroit's Commercial Recycling Program

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You've joined a group of Detroit businesses, nonprofits, and apartments that are taking action to responsibly manage their waste.

Every time you recycle, you are reducing pollution, keeping materials out of landfills, and preserving natural resources.

This guide is intended to provide the resources needed to create and sustain a successful recycling program.

Please also refer to your Commercial Recycling Contract for other important information.

For more information about recycling in Detroit, visit [DetroitRecycles.org](https://DetroitRecycles.org).



**Have questions? Contact us!**

**Becca Serrano**

**Recycling Coordinator**

rebecca.serrano@detroitmi.gov

Desk: (313) 224-9404

Cell: (313) 269-8714

# Getting started: Collecting recyclables



**Recycling Bin**  
(18-gallon)

- Interior only
- Use to empty contents into larger containers



**Recycling Cart**  
(96-gallon)

- Interior or exterior
- Emptied by DPW on your service day



**Recycling Dumpster**  
(450-gallon)

- Exterior only
- Emptied by DPW on your service day

## Recycling Tips

- **DO NOT BAG** recyclables. Place items loosely in your collection container.
- **CLEAN YOUR ITEMS** before placing them in the collection container. Liquid and food residue are not recyclable.
- **REMOVE OBSTRUCTIONS** near the container on your service day. If the truck can't access your container, we may not service it.
- **RECYCLING OUT BY 7 AM** on your service day. Pull them back and secure bins by 9 pm on your service day.
- **QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?** Contact the Recycling Coordinator.



**No Plastic Bags**  
**Do Not Bag Recyclables**



**Empty & Clean**  
**All Recyclables**

# Avoiding Contamination

When non-recyclable materials end up in our containers, this is considered **contamination**. Contamination causes problems at the recycling facility and can result in the City getting fined. It is your responsibility to prevent contamination.

**Remember:** *When in doubt, throw it out!*

**Here are some ways you can help prevent contamination:**

1. Train your staff & tenants how to properly recycle
2. Post the Detroit Recycles signs at eye-level above interior bins
3. Put trash and recycling bins side-by-side in a visible location
4. Monitor your recycling bins, especially at the beginning



**Contaminants pictured above:** Plastic bags, items containing liquid, chip bags, gloves, bagged materials, paper towel.



**If you see non-recyclables in your containers:**

1. Empty the contents into the trash
2. Place a trash can right next to the recycling container
3. Post the Detroit Recycles signs at eye level above both containers
4. Remind staff & tenants to avoid putting "X" in the recycling bin
5. Contact the Recycling Coordinator who can help you problem solve



# RECYCLING SCHEDULE



Containers must be outside by 7:00 am.

**Recycling pick-up day:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Recycling pick-up location:** \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you for recycling!***



**Questions or concerns? Reach out!**

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# RECYCLABLE ITEMS

## Cardboard

Boxes, paper tubes, aseptic cartons, cereal boxes. Flatten to save room.



## Mixed Paper

Office paper, newspaper, magazines, envelopes, junk mail.



## Metal Containers

Beverage cans, canned food containers, clean aluminum foil (large pieces only).



## Glass Bottles

Glass bottles, jars, or food containers. Any color accepted.



## Rigid Plastics

Plastic beverage bottles, detergent bottles, food containers. Look for "chasing arrows" and #1-7.



**ALL ITEMS MUST BE EMPTY AND CLEAN WITH NO FOOD RESIDUE!**

# NON-RECYCLABLE ITEMS

The items below are considered trash and should **NOT** be put in your recycling cart.

- **Styrofoam** (cups, take out containers)
- **Plastic bags** (reuse or return these to the retailer)
- **Plastic film** (ziploc bags, bubble wrap, snack wrappers, shrink wrap, etc.)
- **Paper towel and napkins**
- **Plastic utensils**
- **Rubber gloves**
- **Balloons**
- **Paper plates**
- **Food scraps**
- **Broken glass**
- **Scrap metal, wire hangers**
- **Electronics, batteries, ink cartridges**
- **Liquids** (empty and rinse all food & beverage containers)
- **Furniture, construction debris, tools, or yard waste**



**Remember:** When in doubt, throw it out!



The Department of Public Works offers a **Paid Pickup Bulk Collection Service** for removal of bulk, yard waste, construction debris, and other items. For more information, call (313) 876-0004.

# Recycle only



Cardboard



Paper



Glass Containers



Hard Plastics (#1-7)



Metal Cans



No Plastic Bags



Empty & Clean





# Trash only



**Snack Wrappers**



**Paper Plates &  
Plastic Utensils**



**Napkins &  
Paper Towels**



**Plastic Bags**



**Styrofoam**



**Food**



# Want to **RECYCLE** at home?



Sign-up for a **FREE** recycling cart

**FREE** curbside recycling is available for:

- Detroit residents
- Residences with 4 units or less



Scan the QR code

OR

Contact Green Living Science:

[info@greenlivingscience.org](mailto:info@greenlivingscience.org)

(313) 871-4000 ext. 3



**DetroitRecycles.org**