



Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Schenectady County



~BECOME A BETTER RECYCLER~ FACT SHEET FOR RESIDENTS

Single-Stream recycling is when recyclables are co-mingled in the same recycling bin! There is no need to sort paper from plastic or glass from cans. Single-Stream recycling is more convenient, but can create some confusion about what belongs in the recycling bin. Putting trash in the recycling causes more harm than you think. Use this fact sheet to learn how to become a better recycler. And remember, **when in doubt, throw it out!**

RECYCLE THESE ITEMS IN YOUR HOME BIN

- ✓ plastic containers, bottles, tubs, lids, and jugs (food/beverage and health/beauty containers)
- ✓ glass bottles and jars (food/beverage containers)
- ✓ aluminum cans, clean tin-foil balled-up, foil pie pans, empty aerosol canisters
- ✓ paper products: junk mail, envelopes, folders, newspaper, magazines, paper egg cartons, paper bags, drink cartons, paper juice boxes, scrap paper
- ✓ thin cardboard boxes and rolls

DO NOT RECYCLE THESE ITEMS IN YOUR HOME BIN

- ❖ plastic bags and other thin plastic films
- ❖ Styrofoam ©
- ❖ small plastic items like forks and straws
- ❖ broken glass, dishes, ceramics, and mirrors
- ❖ tissue paper, napkins, paper towels, and paper plates
- ❖ batteries or electronics
- ❖ flexible plastic packaging like toothpaste tubes
- ❖ complex materials like garden hoses, VHS tapes, electrical wires, and textiles
- ❖ hazardous wastes
- ❖ plastic spray bottle nozzles

PLASTIC BAGS

New Yorkers use **23 billion** plastic bags each year, only 15% get recycled properly. **Do not put plastic bags in your home recycling bin.** Plastic bags and other thin plastic films can be **recycled at your local grocery store.** These include:

- ✓ bread bags
 - ✓ newspaper bags
 - ✓ fresh produce bags
 - ✓ frozen food bags
 - ✓ cereal bags
 - ✓ zipper-type baggies
 - ✓ shrink-wrap from paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, etc.)
- All bags must be clean, dry, and empty*

FABRIC & TEXTILES

New Yorkers throw away **1.4 billion lbs.** of textiles every year. The market value of these discarded textiles is \$130 million per year, and a loss of 1,000 NYS jobs. Donate and recycle fabric and textiles at a clothing drop-off bin near you. **Recycle clothing and fabrics regardless of condition.** Items can be stained, ripped, missing buttons, or have broken zippers. Items must be clean, dry, odorless, and free from blood stains or grease. Find a clothing drop-off bin near you by visiting https://nysar3.org/textile_recovery_locations.php

STAY CONNECTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO LEARN MORE @SCHENECTADYCOUNTY RECYCLES



WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

Americans create over 250 million tons of trash every year. The average American produces 4.5 pounds of trash every day. Most of what Americans throw away can be recycled or composted!

Recycling protects natural environments and natural resources. Recycling conserves energy, fuel, water, and other natural resources by reducing the demand for raw materials to make new goods. Recycling reduces the pollution that contributes to global climate change.

It is important to recycle, but it is better to recycle right. Not everything can be recycled, so **when in doubt, throw it out!**

Recycling is only part of the solution. You can make a difference every day by making simple choices that reduce waste, like avoiding single-use disposable products and opting for ways to reduce and reuse. Recycling is a leadership behavior and citizenship skill that fosters stewardship for our environment and sustainable communities. Encourage your co-workers, friends, and family to recycle right!

QUESTIONS?

Contact Maxfield Sorkin, Recycling Educator
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Schenectady County
T: 518.372.1622 ext.264
E: mms397@cornell.edu
ccschenectady.org/recycling

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schenectady County provides equal program and employment opportunities. Please contact the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schenectady County office if you have any special needs.

Schenectady County Recycles is a collaborative partnership between Schenectady County and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schenectady County. This media is funded by Schenectady County with the support of grants through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

HOME GOODS

Never throw away household items that are still in good condition. Furniture, tools, toys, books, kitchenware, and small appliances can be donated to local charitable organizations like:

Home Furnishing Program

518-346-2444

City Mission

518-399-0917

Habitat for Humanity

518-395-3412

Salvation Army

518-399-8444

Good Will

518-355-4265

BATTERIES

Drop off rechargeable batteries at local home improvement stores. Visit call2recycle.org/locator to find a drop-off site near you.

ELECTRONICS

Donate electronics that are still in good condition.

Recycle cell phones at any cell phone service provider or store.

Bring e-waste to electronics retail outlets.

Most e-waste is accepted for free at the County Compost & Recycling Facility, 24 Hetcheltown Road, Glenville. Purchase a permit for \$20 per year and recycle many items for free. Additional fees for TVs.

Call 518-399-6980