



## Recycling FAQs

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## **General Program Information**

### **What is the new recycling program?**

The City of Columbus has answered residents' requests for a new, easy recycling service for all city residents living in single-family homes or in buildings with four units or less. Residents told us they consider recycling a basic city service and we are responding. All eligible households will receive a 64-gallon blue recycling cart for all of their recyclable materials. Collection weeks will alternate with yard waste collection every other week at no added cost to residents.

### **Who is eligible for this recycling service?**

Columbus residents living in single family home or building of 4 attached units or less that is not part of a complex.

### **Who is collecting recycling with the new program?**

Rumpke will be collecting recycling as part of the new city service.

### **When does recycling collection begin?**

The service will be introduced in five phases over a 10-month period beginning in April 2012. Cart delivery will start with homes that receive yard waste collection service on Monday, wrapping up with homes that receive yard waste service on Friday in early 2013. You will have the new cart for several weeks (up to 8) before collection starts. We encourage you to fill it up with recyclables. If you have a Monday collection day, your first recycling collection date will be Monday, June 4. Until recycling service for your neighborhood begins, continue handling yard waste, recyclables and trash in the same way as always. The cart will come with specific information including your collection start date. When your cart is delivered, please read the information included with the cart.

### **What day will my recycling be collected?**

The first step is cart delivery, which will start with homes that have yard waste collection service on Monday, wrapping up with homes that receive yard waste service on Friday in early 2013. You will have the new cart for several weeks before collection starts. We encourage you to fill it up with recyclables. If you have a Monday yard waste collection day, your first recycling collection date is Monday, June 4. Your yard waste collection day will alternate with your recycling collection day. The cart will come with specific information including the collection start date.

### **How much does the recycling service cost?**

There are no additional costs to residents for the recycling service. The program is being funded by the General Fund as a basic city service.

**Where does recycling go after it is collected?**

Collected recyclables are delivered to the Rumpke material recovery facility (MRF), located in the Milo Grogan neighborhood on Fields Avenue near the Ohio State Fairgrounds. The materials are sorted and bundled using a series of specialized equipment. If you are interested, tours of the MRF are available through Rumpke. These bundles are then sold and are eventually re-manufactured into new products. For some of the materials, it's a closed loop process. This is the case with aluminum cans, which are used to manufacture new aluminum cans that will be back on a grocery store shelf in as little as 60 days.

**When will the entire city have recycling service?**

The last phase of neighborhoods, those with Friday yard waste collection, will begin receiving recycling service in February 2013.

**Will drop box recycling still be available?**

Yes, drop box recycling locations will remain available after the new recycling service begins. The full list of recycling drop box locations is available at [www.RecycleColumbus.org](http://www.RecycleColumbus.org).

**What if I currently pay for the subscription recycling service?**

If you are eligible for the new city service and currently pay Rumpke for the subscription recycling service, continue to do so until you hear otherwise. Once your neighborhood has been phased into the new service, you will automatically be switched over and will no longer be charged a fee for recycling. The city is coordinating the change of service closely with Rumpke and will charge a prorated, or discounted, rate for service during the billing period your neighborhood begins receiving the new city recycling service. You will not be overcharged for service.

**What do I do with the red recycling bin from the subscription recycling service?**

Rumpke will coordinate the collection of red recycling bins on the last subscription service recycling day for each phase. Any remaining bins will be collected on the first day of your new city-provided recycling collection. Rumpke asks for you to set the bin on the curb for collection. Bins are property of Rumpke and should not be kept. If the bin is not returned, Rumpke will invoice you for the bin's replacement cost.

**How does this affect my trash collection?**

Trash collection schedules will not be affected by the new recycling service.

**How does this affect my yard waste collection?**

Yard waste collection will move from weekly to every other week after recycling begins in your neighborhood. Yard waste will continue to be collected in biodegradable bags or a separate rigid container, not in the blue cart.

**Why is Columbus providing this new service now when budgets are so tight?**

The new recycling service will not cost residents additional money. Initial funding for the program came from the City's General Fund. However, the more residents recycle, the more affordable the program becomes due to savings in per ton fees at the county landfill. This new service demonstrates Columbus' commitment to becoming a more sustainable, green city.

**What is the RecyColumbus campaign? What does RecyColumbus mean?**

“RecyColumbus” is the name of the new recycling service. “RecyColumbus” was chosen because it shows that recycling and Columbus really do belong together and that our city is enthusiastic about recycling.

**Cart Information****How much does the recycling cart cost?**

There is no additional cost to residents for the new recycling cart. If you would like to order a second cart to recycle more, you can purchase one for \$39.98 (price includes tax, delivery and warranty). Call 645-3111 or complete an order form available online at [www.RecycleColumbus.org](http://www.RecycleColumbus.org).

**When should I expect the recycling cart to arrive?**

No more than six weeks prior to the start of service for your phase, Toter, the manufacturing vendor, will begin delivering recycling carts in your neighborhood. After the cart arrives, you will have approximately 4-6 weeks to begin filling the cart with recyclables before the first collection day. The cart will come with written information about the program, including when your collection starts and what can be recycled.

**How big are the carts? How much can they hold?**

The blue recycling containers hold up to 64 gallons of recyclables. They have lids to keep out the rain and keep recyclables from becoming litter. The carts also have wheels to make it easy to move to the collection point, which is in the same area as your current trash collection.

**Do I need to be home to receive the recycling cart?**

No, carts will be dropped off in the front of each property. You do not need to be home to receive the blue container.

**What should I do when I receive the cart?**

When the recycling cart arrives, write your street address on the cart in permanent marker. Next read the letter and informational brochure that come with the cart. A convenient magnet that reminds you what materials can be recycled will also be included with the cart. Please place this magnet on your refrigerator so it is always handy. Start putting recyclables in the container in anticipation of the first collection day. Sorting is not required. On your collection day, roll the blue cart to the same location where you typically place the green trash container for collection.

**Where do I set out the cart for collection?**

Recycling will be collected in the same location your trash is collected. Containers must be placed within 1 foot of the curb or alley, with the arrow facing outward for collection, and at least 3 feet from trash or recycling carts, or any other obstructions; for alley collection place container in the alley behind your own property; Recycling must be placed out for collection by 6:00 a.m. on your collection day. After collection, containers must be removed and stored within 24 hours.

**When does collection start?**

The first step is to get the recycling container. Cart delivery starts with homes that have yard waste collection service on Monday, wrapping up with homes that have yard waste service on Friday. The cart will contain a letter with your collection start date. Service is expected to begin no later than 6 weeks after you receive your new blue cart. For an annual collection schedule, visit: [www.RecycleColumbus.org](http://www.RecycleColumbus.org)

**Why is the recycling cart so large?**

The cart holds 64 gallons in order to offer enough space for two weeks worth of recyclables. The lid keeps out the rain and prevents wind from blowing recyclables out of the cart. The wheels make it easy for you to roll it to the collection point, which is in the same spot as your current trash collection.

Research has shown that households that use the 64-gallon cart recycle more pounds on average than those that use smaller bins. Cities have typically reported an increase in home recycling when the switch is made to the larger 64-gallon cart size.

**Can I request a smaller or larger recycling container?**

Unfortunately, no. The recycling trucks use an automated collection process. In order for recycling collection to be handled in an efficient manner, containers must be of a uniform size.

**Can I request an additional recycling cart?**

One recycling cart will be provided per household at no cost. If you would like to order a second cart to recycle more, you can purchase one for \$39.98 (price includes tax, delivery and warranty). Call 645-3111 or complete an order form available online at [www.RecycleColumbus.org](http://www.RecycleColumbus.org).

**If the city can give me a 64-gallon recycling cart, why can't I have a 90-gallon regular trash container to replace my 300-gallon container that is in the alley?**

The 300-gallon containers are produced specifically for trash collection and are available only in one size in order for collections to be maintained efficiently. Research has shown that offering too many container sizes can become difficult, if not logistically impossible to manage in a large city such as Columbus.

**What do I do with the cart if I move?**

If you move, the blue cart should be left behind for the new residents. Carts are tied to the household address.

**How can I return the cart if I don't want it?**

We ask that you please use the cart to recycle for 60 days before deciding whether or not to return it. We hope that after you experience how easy it is to recycle using the 64-gallon cart, you will continue to use it for your recyclables. If after 60 days you still wish to return the cart, please call 645-3111 and the city will collect it.

**Recycling Basics**

**What do I recycle?**

A list of what can and cannot be recycled is stamped into the lid of the blue recycling cart. You can recycle the following:

| <b>Paper</b>  | <b>Plastic</b>   | <b>Glass</b>  | <b>Metal</b>  | <b>Cartons</b>  |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newspapers</li> <li>• Magazines</li> <li>• Catalogs and phone books</li> <li>• Junk mail</li> <li>• Computer paper</li> <li>• Cardboard boxes (flattened), including pizza boxes if they are free of food &amp; grease</li> <li>• Other paperboard boxes, such as cereal and dry food boxes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bottles and jugs</li> <li>• Beverage containers, such as water soda bottles</li> <li>• Milk and juice jugs</li> <li>• Laundry and liquid dish soap bottles</li> <li>• Shampoo bottles</li> <li>• Caps and lids</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glass bottles and jars (clear, brown and green)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aluminum cans</li> <li>• Steel cans</li> <li>• Empty aerosol cans (non-hazardous)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food and beverage cartons like milk cartons, chicken broth, wine boxes, juice cartons and other boxes</li> </ul> |

You cannot recycling the following:

| <b>Paper</b>  | <b>Plastic</b>   | <b>Glass</b>  | <b>Metal</b>  | <b>Other</b>   |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavily soiled cardboard, paper plates or cups</li> <li>• Textbooks</li> <li>• Facial tissue &amp; paper towels</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bags</li> <li>• Yogurt cups</li> <li>• Plastic plates, food trays, cups &amp; utensils</li> <li>• Film containers</li> <li>• Buckets</li> <li>• Butter tubs</li> <li>• Hazardous material containers (anti-freeze, cleaners, pesticides, motor oil, paint)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light bulbs</li> <li>• Mirrors</li> <li>• Windows</li> <li>• Ceramics, dishes or drinking glasses</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paint cans</li> <li>• Foil juice pouches</li> <li>• Pots &amp; pans</li> <li>• Scrap metals</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food</li> <li>• Syringes/ needles</li> <li>• Electronics or batteries</li> <li>• Trash or yard waste</li> </ul> |

**Can I recycle lids and caps?**

You can keep lids, caps and labels on the recyclables; no need to remove them before placing in the blue cart.

**Is it necessary to rinse recyclables that contained food or liquid?**

Yes, food and liquid residue contaminates the stream and makes recyclables difficult to process or unusable. Please rinse any containers that are easily washable and do not recycle materials that are heavily soiled with food or liquid residue, such as used pizza boxes.

**Are plastic bags recyclable?**

No, plastic bags are not recyclable through the city's program, because they are not able to be processed by the machinery in the recycling facility. Plastic bags get caught in the mechanisms and cause the machinery to shut down. We encourage residents to recycle their plastic bags at their local grocery or drug store, as most have a separate collection point for these inside their buildings.

**Should I bag my recyclables like I do my trash?**

No, recyclables can go directly into the blue cart without using any bags to hold them. This makes them easier to sort and process once they reach the recycling facility.

**What tips can you share with me about recycling?**

- There is no sorting required. Everything that is recyclable can go straight into the blue cart.
- Lids, caps and labels can be kept on recyclable containers.
- Do not place dirty recyclables, such as un-rinsed jars, in the cart.
- Please do not recycle plastic bags.
- Yard waste will continue to be collected in biodegradable bags or a separate rigid container, not in the blue cart, on alternating weeks.
- The chart on the lid and information that comes on the cart tells you what you can and cannot recycle.
- Keep the magnet that comes with your cart on your refrigerator.
- Visit [www.RecycleColumbus.org](http://www.RecycleColumbus.org) for more information.

**What is single stream recycling?**

Single stream recycling is the process used by Rumpke. It means that residents do not have to sort any of their recyclables. All sorting is done at the material recovery facility or MRF.

**Why don't I have to sort my recyclables?**

The new recycling service includes a contract with Rumpke to handle collection and processing. Rumpke's material recovery facility utilizes technology that sorts all the recyclable materials making it easier for residents to recycle.

**Benefits of recycling****Why should I recycle?**

By recycling all that you can, you can make a real impact. Everyday actions at home can add up—like putting aluminum cans and newspapers in the blue recycling cart instead of the trash. Recycling helps the environment, saves energy, reduces the amount of waste buried in the landfill and creates and retains local jobs. And, the more we recycle, the more trash we divert away from the county landfill, which saves dollars that the City pays on each ton of trash dumped there.

### **How does recycling help Columbus?**

- Recycling helps keep usable materials out of the landfill:
  - Currently, Columbus residents divert 8% of their trash from the landfill through the subscription recycling service and drop boxes. With this new service, the city hopes to increase this percentage and extend the life left in Columbus' landfills.
  - 60% of the materials buried in landfills could be recycled and put to good use. This recycling service is estimated to add 1.5 years to Columbus' landfill's 30-year life.
  - As a result of countywide recycling efforts, 7-11 years of life are added to the landfill.
- Recycling creates, and saves, jobs right here in Columbus:
  - Eighty percent of the materials recycled here in Columbus stay within a 150-mile radius and are used by local companies.
  - Additional jobs, such as processing recycled materials into new products, will also be indirectly supported locally.
- Recycling saves money
  - The more materials are recycled, the more affordable the program becomes due to savings in per ton fees at the county landfill.

### **Were any new jobs created as a result of the new service?**

Yes, this new recycling service will create and retain 60 full-time jobs with benefits. These jobs are based in the Milo-Grogan neighborhood and include sorting recyclables and driving collection trucks. Additional jobs, such as processing recycled materials into new products, will also be indirectly supported locally.

### **How much is the recycling program costing the city?**

The new recycling service will not cost residents additional money. Initial funding for the program came from the City's General Fund. However, the more residents recycle, the more affordable the program becomes due to savings in per ton fees at the county landfill. This new service demonstrates Columbus' commitment to becoming a more sustainable, green city.

### **What will happen if I don't recycle?**

Recycling is not mandatory in Columbus but we hope that all residents take advantage of the program. Columbus residents asked for this new service and told us they consider recycling to be a basic city service. The city has delivered, making recycling convenient and at no additional cost to residents.