



VOLUNTARY RECYCLING

OR

PAY-PER-BAG

**WHICH DO YOU
WANT?**

Provided by your South Portland Recycling Committee

What Should Be Recycled

All Paper

All Hardboard

All Cardboard

All Glass Containers

All Metal Containers

All Plastic Containers

This is all you have to know to recycle. If you recycle everything in the above categories, Regional Waste Systems will sort out the few things that they cannot use.

Background

Pay-per-bag does increase recycling and does reduce the amount of trash disposal. But, pay-per-bag would cost individual residents of South Portland many times more for their trash disposal than what they are currently paying. Also just increasing the price of the bags could increase the cost to you at any time.

Our voluntary recycling program is a success. **But to assure that we keep it voluntary and that we continue to enjoy its savings, we as a community need to increase our recycling.** Recycling is right for the environment, but reducing the amount of trash is the driving economic element.

Those presently not recycling will inevitably recycle if pay-per-bag is implemented. So why not recycle now under the voluntary program and save money.

Those presently recycling should review the attached guidelines and ask themselves, what is listed that I am still throwing into my trash? Your own answer may surprise you.

- Residents who are presently not recycling should start recycling.
- Residents who can recycle more should do so.
- Residents who are recycling as much as possible should keep up the good work and are to be congratulated.

**Attached Are The Present Guidelines For
South Portland's Recycling Program.**

Paper

Almost all paper can be recycled, it is easy to recycle, and because of the quantity and its weight, it can have the greatest impact on increasing South Portland's recycle rate.

What To Recycle

- Newspaper and magazines including all colored and glossy inserts;
- Regular paper including colored and glossy sheets;
- Junk mail including envelopes with plastic windows;
- Paperback books, phone books, catalogs, financial reports, calendars, etc.; and/or
- Lightweight wrapping paper including Christmas colored paper.

How To Recycle

- Not necessary to remove staples, paper clips, plastic windows on envelopes, and continuous plastic ring binders on reports.
- Not necessary to remove individual stickers and small amounts of scotch tape.
- Paper can be put in paper bags for handling. Never put paper in plastic bags, because plastic bags are not recyclable at Regional Waste Systems.
- Paperback books, phone books, catalogs, financial reports, calendars, etc. with stiff covers are recyclable with paper. However, you need to open the book and tear it in half through the binding, or if you prefer, tear off the front and back covers and put the covers with hardboard. This is necessary because as closed books, the hard covers prevent the processing chemicals from reaching the inside pages.
- Paper stiffer than regular paper and heavyweight wrapping paper should be put with hardboard. One guide is if it is too stiff for a computer printer, put it with the hardboard. If you have any question, put it with hardboard.
- Remove the rubber type glue that you can just roll off the paper if you notice it. If it is raining or you know it is going to rain, do not put paper out for curbside pick up. If it rains after you put paper out for curbside pickup, don't worry about it. RWS prefers the paper to be dry, but they will take it if it gets wet.

What Not To Recycle

- Bags in cereal boxes;
- Wax paper;
- Wax Coated, foil coated and/or plastic coated paper;
- Candy wrapper(s);
- Carbon paper;
- Large amounts of scotch tape on paper because it provides too much glue; or
- Full sheets of stick-on-labels such as Easter seals because they provide too much glue.

Hardboard and Cardboard

Hardboard is any single-layered paper that is heavier than regular paper.
Cardboard is any multi-layered paper with corrugated filler.

What To Recycle

- All hardboard and cardboard boxes from the smallest box to the largest shipping box;
- All hardboard that is stiffer than regular paper including all colored and glossy;
- All hardboard food containers like cereal boxes, baking supply boxes, ice cream boxes and egg cartons;
- Hardboard containers with metal or plastic ends like peanut and some baking supply containers;
- Hardboard folders and hanging files;
- Soda and beer cartons;
- Paper cups, paper plates and paper food trays;
- Paper towel and toilet roll cores;
- Paper bags, large heavy envelopes and heavy wrapping paper;
- Front and back covers of paperback books, phone books and similar reports; and/or
- Pizza and other prepared food boxes.

How To Recycle

- Not necessary to remove any labels, scotch tape or packaging tape as any kind or amount is acceptable. Glue is not a problem in processing hardboard and cardboard.
- Not necessary to remove any paper clips or staples even the heavy staples in cardboard boxes.
- Not necessary to remove plastic or metal from hardboard containers such as cutting edges, pouring spouts, rims and ends.
- Not necessary to remove the plastic windows from packaged food boxes or the plastic around the opening of tissue boxes.
- Not necessary to remove food stains although the product should be dry. Excessive food should be removed.
- Not necessary to remove metal from hanging file folders.
- Not necessary to remove plastic or metal binders from reports.
- If the paper is too heavy to feed through a printer, it is considered hardboard. When in doubt, put it with hardboard.
- Food boxes with a plastic coating on one side are acceptable.
- It is necessary to remove the stiff plastic used to seal items in small packages such as toys, tools, etc. If not removed, the hard plastic completely seals the hardboard from the processing chemicals.
- Hardboard and cardboard boxes should be flattened to minimize required storage space.

Hardboard and Cardboard Cont.

- Cardboard boxes should be cut, broken or folded into sections no larger than four feet in any direction for ease of handling.

What Not To Recycle

- Plastic bags and wax paper bags in food boxes;
- Plastic and Styrofoam cups, plates, food trays and their plastic covers;
- Orange juice cartons and dairy product cartons. They contain a lot of fiber, but unfortunately they are completely sealed on both sides with a plastic coating.
- Paper towels, napkins and tissue paper for sanitary reasons.
- Feed bags such as bird and grain bags because most contain an imbedded plastic liner; and/or
- Three-ring notebook binders and the front and back covers of hard bound books.

Plastic

What To Recycle

- All plastic containers with the number 1 and 2 marked on the bottom, except oil containers are recyclable. However, if you exclude the non-recyclable plastic listed below, you can recycle all other plastic containers and forget about looking for the number on the bottom of the container. Regional Waste Systems will then sort out the few containers that are not recyclable. All colors and with caps are acceptable.

How To Recycle

- Not necessary to remove labels.
- Clean containers only to control odor. Not necessary to clean for recycling.
- Crush plastic milk containers to conserve trucking and handling space.

What Not To Recycle

- Plastic buckets;
- Plastic oil containers, even though they are number 2, are not recyclable due to oil contamination;
- Wide mouth dairy containers such as for yogurt and cottage cheese are not recyclable because there is no market for them;
- Plastic cups and plates;
- Plastic berry boxes;
- Plastic bags;
- Styrofoam cups, plates and food trays;
- Styrofoam packaging material;
- Sheet plastic such as poly or Plexiglas; and or
- Plastic parts and components.

Plastic Recyclable Elsewhere

- Styrofoam packaging material, "peanuts", are accepted for reuse at Mail Boxes, Etc. They are located in South Portland at Millcreek Shopping Center and Jetport Plaza.
- Plastic bags are accepted for recycling by both Shaw's and Hannaford stores.
- Plastic newspaper delivery bags can be returned to your paper carrier for reuse.

Glass

What To Recycle

- Glass containers of all colors.
- Unbroken window glass can be recycled curbside. For driver safety, broken window glass should be recycled in the silver bullets.
- All light bulbs except fluorescent and Christmas tree mini bulbs.

How To Recycle

- Not necessary to remove labels from containers.
- Clean containers only to control odor. Not necessary to clean for recycling.

What Not To Recycle

- Laminated and safety glass;
- Windshield glass; and or
- Florescent light bulbs because they contain mercury.

Metal

What To Recycle

- Metal food cans, including the top removed with a can opener. For driver safety, the can covers removed with a can opener should be put in the can.
- Metal covers;
- Aluminum foil, including yogurt container covers that are solid aluminum;
- Empty aerosol cans;
- Empty paint and stain cans; and/or
- Metal up to one foot in any dimension.

How To Recycle

- Clean food containers only to control odor. Not necessary to clean for recycling.
- Not necessary to remove sealing material from inside covers.
- Aerosol cans should be empty so that no liquid shakes in the can. Contents will not affect recycling, but could pose an explosion hazard.
- Contents of paint and stain cans should be dried and the bulk of the residue removed. Cans do not have to be cleaned. Remaining residue of paint or stain (latex or oil base) in the can will not affect the recycling process. Any solids removed from the cans can be put in the regular trash.
- Metal should not be any larger than one foot in any one dimension. Metal can be components but must be all metal such as a faucet. Metal components with a mixture of plastic and electrical components such as a toaster are not recyclable.

What Not To Recycle

- All propane tanks, including the small tanks for portable stoves and heating torches. They pose an explosion hazard.
- Metal components that include a mixture of plastic and/or electrical materials such as kitchen appliances. These types of components should be taken to the Transfer Station.