Oregon Material Recovery and Waste Generation Updates

OREGONIANS ARE SWIMMING UPSTREAM

In 2005 Oregonians recovered 2.5 million tons, or 45 percent of their waste; nearly a 9 percent increase from 2004. While this is an impressive gain, Oregonians are also generating more waste. According to DEQ, in 2005 Oregonians generated on average 1,383 pounds of waste per person annually—almost 4 pounds each day—due to increased consumption.

WHAT HAPPENED TO OREGONIANS’ WASTE GENERATED IN 2005?

MATERIALS RECOVERED IN 2005

What’s in the Mix?

In 2005 the major recovered materials included:

- 39% Organics – Wood waste, yard debris, food waste, animal waste.
- 30% Paper – newspaper, high-grade paper, corrugated cardboard/kraft paper, mixed waste paper.
- 20% Metals – Tin cans, aluminum, other scrap metals.
- 6% Other – Tires, used motor oil, batteries, gypsum, asphalt roofing materials, carpeting, textiles, and paint/solvents.
- 4% Glass – Glass containers, windshield glass, and ceramics.
- 1% Plastic – Rigid plastic containers (drink bottles, milk jugs, and other containers), plastic film, and other plastics.

HOW CAN I HELP AT THE CURB?

Curbside recycling has never been easier. In Washington County, garbage collection service providers accept a mix of materials at the curb including paper, plastics, cardboard, metal, and aerosol cans all in the same container.

Yard debris, glass and motor oil are also collected at the curb, but must be set out in different containers to prevent contamination of other recyclables. Whether your curbside service provides you with red bins, roll carts, or containers, recycling can be easy. Look for curbside recycling preparation tips on Page 2 or online at Recyclewise.org.

Working together, Washington County, the cities and the rest of our neighbors in the metro region are gaining ground to meet the waste recovery goal of 64 percent by 2009.

**ON THE SIDE**

**GLASS** **KEEP IT ON THE SIDE**
- Use a bucket or rigid container to separate glass from other items and place it next to your recycling container.
- Clean jars and bottles thoroughly and remove lids.
- No broken glass, cookware, window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, or drinking glasses.

**MOTOR OIL**
- Place motor oil in a see-through plastic container with screw-top lid.
- Motor oil only—no other liquids accepted.

**NO PLASTIC BAGS IN BIN**

**PLACE THE FOLLOWING ALL TOGETHER IN YOUR RECYCLING CONTAINER:**

**PLASTIC**
- Clean containers with necks only.
- Do not include plastic bags, films, or wrappers; plastic caps, lids, bottle tops, pump or spray tops; or bottles that contained motor oil, herbicides, or pesticides.

**SCRAP PAPER**
- Contain scrap paper in a paper bag.
- Do not include tissues, napkins, paper towels, waxed paper, waxed boxes, plastic cereal box liners, paper contaminated with food, or hard cover books.

**CARDBOARD**
- Flatten boxes and cut down to pieces no larger than 3’x3’.
- No wax-coated cardboard.

**MILK CARTON/DRINK BOXES**
- Rinse milk containers and remove and discard drink box straws.

**METAL CANS**
- No paint cans, Call Metro at (503) 234-3000 for disposal instructions.
- Clean containers.

**AEROSOL CANS**
- Empty aerosol cans completely and remove plastic caps (nozzle ok).

**SCRAP METAL**
- Empty aerosol cans completely and remove plastic caps (nozzle ok).
- No large appliances. Call your local hauler for collection service information.
-40 lbs. limit. Pieces no longer than 36”.
- Remove plastic, rubber, or foreign material.
- No large appliances. Call your local hauler for collection service information.

**GLASS** **KEEP IT ON THE SIDE**
- Use a bucket or rigid container to separate glass from other items and place it next to your recycling container.
- Clean jars and bottles thoroughly and remove lids.
- No broken glass, cookware, window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, or drinking glasses.

Windy Days
During windy weather, secure materials at the curb. Place loose paper or junk mail in a paper bag within your recycle bin or cart.
**Proper Pharmaceutical Disposal Guidelines**

As you clean this Spring, you may come across bottles of out-of-date pharmaceuticals and left over medication. Flushing medication down the toilet or drain can cause water quality issues. Wastewater treatment plants and septic systems usually do not treat or only partially treat pharmaceuticals, so chemical compounds pass through treatment plants or septic systems to our rivers or groundwater.

Washington County Department of Health and Human Services is partnering with many agencies, ranging from law enforcement to water service providers, to develop a program that will collect old or unused pharmaceuticals in a safe, secure manner for proper disposal. Until this program is fully developed, there are other options:

**First** - Hold on to the expired medication until the program is ready for implementation.

**Second** - Place the medication in your trash which will be sent to the landfill. Landfills in our area have many protective measures in place to prevent chemical seepage into the soil, such as a composite liner and a leachate collection and removal system.

**Third** - Follow the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) suggested guidelines for disposal outlined below.

**DO NOT FLUSH MEDICATIONS**

DEQ suggests unused medicines be disposed of in the garbage.

- Keep waste pharmaceuticals in their original containers with their labels (remove/conceal any patient information if you have privacy concerns).
- Tape the lid on the container if it is not childproof and there are children in the home.
- Place waste pharmaceuticals in a plastic, sealable bag, especially if liquid.
- Place waste pharmaceuticals in durable packaging that masks the contents, such as a brown cardboard box.
- Place waste pharmaceuticals in the trash as close to garbage pickup time as possible.

Contact the DEQ hazardous waste duty officer at (503) 229-5263 for more information.

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**Illegal Roadside Dumping/Backyard Burning**

Illegal dumping is a problem that has an impact on all of us. Not only is it unsightly, it has the potential to contaminate the surrounding area, posing a health risk to both people and wildlife. Discarded wastes attract vector (rats, flies, mosquitoes, etc.) that can carry diseases harmful to humans and pets. Dumped household chemicals can leak into waterways and aquifers which can pollute our drinking water and soils. Illegal dumping of yard debris can also harm the environment. Cleaning up illegal dump sites is an unpleasant task and is an expense we all have to absorb.

**DISPOSING OF MATERIALS ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE LAND IS A VIOLATION OF STATE LAW ORS 164.805.**

- Can I dump or bury garbage on my own land?
  - A. No. Excessive, improperly stored, or putrescible type materials on your land are forms of illegal dumping. They can pose a significant health and safety risk.

- I compost my yard debris and I have a pile of materials to burn. Are there any issues I need to keep in mind?
  - A. If you compost or have a burn pile, please properly manage it. Ensure that it does not create a nuisance for neighbors or that it does not provide any food or shelter for vectors (rats, flies, mosquitoes, etc.)

Depending on your property address, there are rules about where and when materials can be burned. Check with DEQ to determine if your property is located in an area where burning is prohibited or permitted before you take action.

- What should I do if I see illegal dumping?
  - A. If you witness the dumping, please call Washington County Solid Waste Enforcement at (503) 846-8809 or if you live within a city, call your city government (see page 1 for phone numbers to city offices). Note the location, date, time, and license plate number.

- What information will I be asked when I call in to report illegal dumping activities?
  - A. You will be asked for the specific location where the dumping has occurred, the types of materials dumped, what time of day and possibly a description of a person doing the dumping, and the vehicle used. Record the license plate number to assist with the report. DO NOT approach the person.

- Someone disposed of their garbage in my container without my consent. What do I do?
  - A. Check the dumped contents for mail or other materials listing addresses of the individual(s) who illegally dumped the contents. Consider purchasing a lock to secure the dumpster when you are not using it, and don’t forget to remove the lock at time of disposal.

- Help! Our business has a dumpster, but we believe people are using it to dispose of their personal garbage.
  - A. Lock the dumpster area to limit access to those who possess a key to the dumpster area. You may also consider placing a security camera in the dumpster area if illegal dumping continues. Post signage warning against unauthorized use of the dumpster stating this violates ORS 164.125, which can lead to prosecution for offenses.

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**Used Sharps—Proper Storage and Disposal**

Oregon State law mandates proper storage and disposal of used sharps to protect others including needles, lancets, and syringes.

**DO NOT PLACE SHARPS IN YOUR GARBAGE CAN.** Workers can be harmed if sharps are not properly disposed of in approved containers.

Safe Handling: Store sharps in approved bio-hazard containers only. Milk jugs and coffee cans are NOT SAFE or ACCEPTABLE for sharps storage.

- Keep sharp waste pharmaceuticals in their original containers with their labels (remove/conceal any patient information if you have privacy concerns).
- Tape the lid on the container if it is not childproof and there are children in the home.
- Place waste pharmaceuticals in a plastic, sealable bag, especially if liquid.
- Place waste pharmaceuticals in durable packaging that masks the contents, such as a brown cardboard box.
- Place waste pharmaceuticals in the trash as close to garbage pickup time as possible.
- Contact the DEQ hazardous waste duty officer at (503) 229-5263 for more information.

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**Protect Your Personal Information**

Much attention has been directed at consumers to protect their personal and confidential information. Sensitive materials set out on the curb for recycling are best protected by shredding first and then containing them within a paper bag. The bag will help reduce contents from blowing out of the bins and causing neighborhood litter.
Focus on Recyclable Materials…

**PAPER**
Recycling paper is one way to help minimize waste going to the landfill and preserve our natural resources.

**PAPER RECYCLING INVOLVES**
- Mix paper with water and heat to reduce it to pulp
- Screen pulp to remove contaminants
- Wash and de-ink pulp
- Press and dry pulp and make into new paper products

**NEW PRODUCTS INCLUDE:**
- Newsprint
- Cardboard boxes
- Paper office supplies
- Kraft paper bags (grocery bags)
- Paper towels and napkins

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**GLASS**
The average American uses 79.5 pounds of glass per year. Glass bottles do not break down in a landfill.

**GLASS RECYCLING INVOLVES**
- Breaking glass mechanically into small pieces called cullet
- Removing metals, labels, and plastic with magnets, screens, and vacuum systems
- Shipping cullet to a glass manufacturer
- Combining cullet with soda ash, limestone, and sand to create new glass products

**NEW PRODUCTS INCLUDE:**
- Jars, containers, and bottles
- Fiberglass installation
- Aggregate substitute (road beds, drainage material and construction fill)
- Reflective highway paint
- Sandblasting material
- Marbles
- Decorative tiles
- Surfboards

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**DID YOU KNOW**
- Recycling one ton of newspapers saves 4,074 kilowatt-hours of electricity—which is enough electricity to heat about six homes for a week.
- Energy saved from recycling one glass bottle will operate a 100-watt light bulb for four hours.

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**Place glass in separate container**

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Recycling plastic is one way to help minimize waste going to the landfill and preserve our natural resources.

Most plastic recycling involves:
- Unpacking and sorting plastic by resin type and/or color
- Shredding the sorted plastic into flakes
- Cleaning plastic to remove contaminants, labels, foil, and glue
- Heating and extruding the melted plastic that is then chopped into pellets
- Selling pellets to manufacturers who mold and form them into finished products

New products include:
- Nursery pots
- Plastic lumber
- Polyester fibers
- Plastic containers and bottles
- Industrial strapping
- Car parts, toys, fleece clothing, and carpets
- Rugs
- Park benches

Energy
By recycling materials such as paper or glass bottles, the energy and resources used to make them in the first place are captured. Because recycled materials have been refined and processed once, manufacturing the second time around is much cleaner and more efficient.

Did you know:
Recycling one aluminum beverage can saves enough energy to run a 100-watt bulb for 20 hours, a computer for three hours, or a TV for two hours.

Economy
The U.S. recycling and reuse industries employ more than 1.1 million people. This represents a significant force in the country’s economy and makes a vital contribution to job creation and economic development.

How many jobs does recycling create?
Producing paper from recycled material creates five times the number of jobs than producing it using raw materials. In general, recycling creates six times as many jobs as disposing waste in the landfill.

Did you know:
Recycling one ton of recyclables = $74 value to end-markets.

What do the plastic numbers mean?

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Plastic Name</th>
<th>Common Use</th>
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<td>PET</td>
<td>Polyethylene terephthalate</td>
<td>Soft drinks, medicine bottles</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDPE</td>
<td>High-density polyethylene</td>
<td>Milk, water, shampoo and motor oil bottles</td>
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<tr>
<td>PVC</td>
<td>Polyvinyl chloride</td>
<td>Meat wrap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDPE</td>
<td>Low-density polyethylene</td>
<td>Film (plastic bags &amp; wrap) grocery bags</td>
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<tr>
<td>PP</td>
<td>Polypropylene</td>
<td>Syrup bottles, yogurt tubs, reusable bottles</td>
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<tr>
<td>PS</td>
<td>Polystyrene and expanded poly styrene</td>
<td>Coffee cups, take-out containers, reusable consumer products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>Polycarbonate</td>
<td>Medical storage containers, electronics, Nalgene® water bottles</td>
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DID YOU KNOW
Recycling one ton of plastic milk jugs saves enough energy to light a home for a year.
**City Scope—Spring into Clean!**

**HILLSBORO**—City of Hillsboro residents will have a new addition this Summer. Roll cart recycling is coming to the curb! Stay tuned for more information about this new service from your hauler and the City.

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<tr>
<th>Monthly Charge-Hillsboro</th>
<th>20-Gallon Container</th>
<th>32/35-Gallon Container</th>
<th>60/65-Gallon Container</th>
<th>90/95-Gallon Container</th>
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<td>$14.60</td>
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**Volunteer Opportunities**

**MASTER RECYCLERS**

Interested in learning more about recycling and helping promote a more sustainable community? Become a Master Recycler! You will complete an intensive eight-week course and then volunteer 30 hours annually to teach others about reducing, reusing, and recycling. The next course in Washington County will be held in Fall 2007. For more information, visit www.masterrecycler.org or call the Master Recycler Coordinator at (503) 823-7530.

**HILLSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION**

Hillsboro’s Parks and Recreation Department maintains more than 800 acres of diverse recreational areas including 30 developed parks and specialty areas and a variety of green spaces, wetlands, and trails. The Parks Department Volunteer Program recently began an Adopt-a-Park Program, designed to provide volunteer opportunities within the community for individuals, groups, and organizations to participate in further enhancing its park system. To Adopt-a-Park or to volunteer in another Parks and Recreation capacity, contact Kristi Serecaut at (503) 615-3479 at the City of Hillsboro for more information.

**Color Your Garden Green**

**WEED, PLANT, TRANSPLANT YOUR GARDEN POTS**

As Spring gardens are planted, don’t forget your garden starter trays and pots are made of recyclable plastic! Far West Fibers in Beaverton and Hillsboro (www.farwestfibers.com) offer plastic pot drop-off recycling sites seven days a week, all year-round. Garden containers accepted include plastic nursery pots in all sizes, plastic seed and carrying trays, and thin plastics (cell packs, 4” pots). Please rinse clean prior to drop-off.

**DREAMING OF YOUR SPRING GARDEN?**

Learn to turn your dreams into great gardens with the help of a local natural gardening expert. To schedule a free natural gardening presentation for your garden club or group, please call Carl Grimm at (503) 797-1676.

**WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR NATURAL GARDEN TO BE AN INSPIRATION?**

Metro seeks host gardeners for its 9th Annual Gardens of Natural Delights™ tour, set for July 15. The tour highlights beautiful gardens thriving without synthetic chemicals. Natural gardening is safe for your family and pets, and helps keep nature in our neighborhoods.

Last year, four tour gardens were located in Washington County and the goal is to double this in 2007. For an application or more information, contact Carl Grimm at (503) 797-1676, or visit www.metro-region.org/garden.

**Make Spring Cleaning Green Cleaning—Simple Recipes for a Safer Home**

Many of the products used to clean our homes may include ingredients that are harmful to people, pets and the environment. What can you do? Purchased less-toxic products like baking soda, hydrogen peroxide, liquid soap or detergent, or vinegar to clean your home….while protecting your family and environment. Check out Metro’s Green Cleaner guide for recipes to clean laundry, kitchens, floors and carpets, living rooms and much more. Log on to www.metro-region.org and search for “green cleaners” or call their Information Center at (503) 234-3000.

**Freeze the grease, save the drain!**

Gravy, cooking oil, shortening, and sauces, oh my! The battle of the bulge isn’t just at our waistline, it’s in our sewers causing clogs and messy overflows. To combat the fatty enzymes, the Freeze the Grease, Save the Drain homeowner kit is here.

Over time grease can build up and block your entire pipe. Prevent backups in your home by pouring all bacon, fried chicken and other cooking grease into a can, putting it in the freezer, before tossing it in the trash.

Call (503) 681-3678 to receive your FREE Freeze the Grease, Save the Drain kit in Spanish and English that includes a pan scraper, a plastic lid that fits metal cans, and easy-to-follow-instructions. Your pipes will thank you for it!

For more information, visit www.cleanwaterservices.org.

Go native!

Create natural landscaping that needs less watering and chemicals, and is resistant to pests and diseases. Attract birds, butterflies and beneficial wildlife to your yard. Reduce erosion and protect water quality.

Utilize the online Native Plant Finder at www.cleanwaterservices.org/gonative and take the headache out of finding the right Pacific Northwest native plants for your yard. Choose your soil type, sunlight needs, growing rate, plant and foliage type. The Native Plant Finder will do the work to suggest the right plants for your landscape. You’ll in turn reduce water pollution and stormwater runoff for clean rivers and a healthy watershed.

Call for your free Gardening with Native Plants poster at (503) 681-3663. It lists 50 common native plants along with color photos and their growing conditions. You’ll also get a list of gardening workshops and helpful references.

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Back to Nature
Compost—A Recipe for Success

Composting is easy and inexpensive...and yields beautiful gardens! This natural process enriches soil quality, promotes healthy plant growth, and reduces a garden’s need for water. Adding compost to soil helps:

- Replenish and store organic nutrients
- Reduce erosion and water run-off
- Loosen clay soils for better root development
- Retain moisture in sandy soils
- Support beneficial soil organisms
- Plants resist weeds, disease, and insects

HOW TO COMPOST FOR BETTER BLOOMS
A well-maintained compost pile will create compost from yard debris in as little as six to eight weeks. The preparation and tending of the pile determines the speed and success of the finished product.

TIPS TO COMPOST SUCCESS

1. Chop the Debris
   The finer debris is chopped, the better the access for tiny organisms to do their work. A successful blend of one part brown debris to one part green helps to stabilize the pile and control odors.
   **Green** = nitrogen-rich materials (grass, green leaves, fresh-cut flowers, stems)
   **Brown** = carbon-rich materials (sticks, branches, dried leaves, straw, wood shavings)

2. Turn the Pile
   Aerating the pile weekly allows the tiny ecosystem and organisms to breathe. If not aerated, the pile becomes anaerobic; a much colder, slower process, and a common cause of foul odors.

3. Maintain the Moisture
   Keep the pile moist by watering…but not too much. Strive for the wetness of a wrung-out sponge. If the pile is too wet, add dry leaves or wood shavings.

4. Finish the Compost
   Finished compost will appear dark and crumbly, smell earthy, and no longer generate heat. Use chicken wire or mesh to screen-off larger items and allow the finished compost to “mature”—usually several weeks—before spreading compost over soil as mulch.

Residential Collection Services in Unincorporated Washington County

**DOES WHERE YOU LIVE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**
Yes. There is a different level of service for neighborhoods inside the urban growth boundary (UGB) and the rural areas outside of the UGB.

**If you live within the UGB, your service includes** weekly garbage and recycling collection and yard debris collection every other-week.

**If you reside outside the UGB, your service includes** weekly garbage collection and monthly recycling. Rural residents do not receive yard debris collection at this time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection Services by Area</th>
<th>Outside UGB</th>
<th>Inside UGB</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garbage Collection</td>
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<td>Weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yard Debris Collection</td>
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<td>Every Other Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recycling</td>
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<td>Weekly</td>
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Washington County Unincorporated Residential Garbage Collection Rates

as of August 2006

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Container Size</th>
<th>Monthly Charge Urban</th>
<th>Monthly Charge Rural</th>
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<td>20-Gallon Container</td>
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<td>32-Gallon Container</td>
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<td>60-Gallon Container</td>
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<td>90-Gallon Container</td>
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Remodeling? S-t-r-e-t-c-h Your Budget!

**PAINT:**
Metro recycles up to 80 percent of the latex paint collected through its hazardous waste program. Collected paint is re-blended, filtered, and repackaged. Its high-quality and excellent performance means MetroPaint is a steal of a deal at $5-$10 per 1-gallon can or $15-$35 per 5-gallon pail! Call Metro at (503) 234-3000 or visit their website www.metro-region.org for hours, location, and paint colors.

**BUILDING MATERIALS:**
When looking for materials to complete your remodeling or building project, consider local retailers, like Portland’s Habitat for Humanity ReStore or The ReBuilding Center. These stores give building materials a second life after a remodel or demolition project. Search for unique vintage materials ranging from doorknobs to windows to add to your project.

**PROJECT AFTERMATH:**
What do you do with the remaining materials from a remodel or demolition?

1. **First,** consider placing reusable items up for sale or give away (www.Craigslist.com, Freecycle.com).
2. **Second,** take them to a used material building center like Portland’s Habitat for Humanity ReStore or The ReBuilding Center.
3. **Third,** check out Metro’s Construction Industry Recycling Toolkit online for businesses that accept construction and demolition material for reuse or recycling. www.metro-region.org

2007 Curbside Yard Debris Calendar
contact your hauler for your pick-up schedule

**My pick-up week is ▲ GREEN □ RED**

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## Drop-off depots

Please call ahead for a full list of materials accepted, operating hours, and any applicable charges.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drop-off depot</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Accepted Materials</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aloha Recycling</td>
<td>(503) 649-6727</td>
<td>✓ Paper ✓ Met. ✓ *Plastics ✓ Glass ✓ Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Banks Recycling Depot</td>
<td>(503) 324-0230</td>
<td>✓ Paper ✓ Met. ✓ *Plastics ✓ Glass ✓ Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Far West Fibers, Beaverton &amp; Hillsboro</td>
<td>(503) 643-9944</td>
<td>✓ Paper ✓ Met. ✓ *Plastics ✓ Glass ✓ Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pride Disposal, Sherwood</td>
<td>(503) 625-6177</td>
<td>✓ Paper ✓ Met. ✓ *Plastics ✓ Glass ✓ Other</td>
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<td>Willamette Resources Industry, Wilsonville</td>
<td>(503) 570-0629</td>
<td>✓ Paper ✓ Met. ✓ *Plastics ✓ Glass ✓ Other</td>
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<td>Forest Grove Transfer Station</td>
<td>(503) 992-3005</td>
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<td>Best Buy In Town, Hillsboro</td>
<td>(503) 645-2275</td>
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<td>Northwest Environmental Recycling, Cornelius</td>
<td>(503) 357-6090</td>
<td>✓ Paper ✓ Met. ✓ *Plastics ✓ Glass ✓ Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodco, Aloha</td>
<td>(503) 649-5430</td>
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**RECYCLE**

- Prepare recyclables so they have the highest value in the marketplace—rinse cans and keep paper dry.
- Recycle glass separately. Use a plastic bucket or tub for glass and place it at the curb with the other recyclables.
- Keep plastic grocery bags out of the recycle container. Many grocery stores will recycle used plastic bags and often have a collection unit at the front of the store.

**SO, WHY RECYCLE?**

By recycling and buying products made with recycled content, you help divert recyclable materials from the landfill and conserve valuable resources. Furthermore, by reducing and reusing, you help prevent waste from being generated in the first place. Manufacturers will use recyclables as feedstock to create new products and reduce the need to harvest additional natural resources.

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**REDUCE**

Plan ahead and purchase carefully to significantly reduce waste, as well as:

- Replace disposable items like paper plates, coffee mugs, and napkins with durable ones.
- Use both sides of paper to extend its use!
- Utilize a list to limit impulse buying.
- Bring bags from home for your groceries.

**SO, WHY REDUCE?**

Creating less waste conserves natural resources. Reducing the need for product transportation, storage, collection services, and landfill space.

**REUSE**

- Maintain or repair household goods rather than replacing with new.
- Donate, sell, or trade unwanted items.
- Consider joining a Freecycle network in your area (www.freecycle.org) or visit www.craigslist.com to find treasures or offer up unwanted items for cash/trade.
- Create a new purpose for old items.

**SO, WHY REUSE?**

Reusing materials reduces the amount of resources used to manufacture new products. Explore what other uses an item has before the product is discarded or recycled.

---

**BACK TO BASICS**

```
"Recycling is really just common sense, and until the 'modern era,' it was a common household activity. Before the 1920s, 90 percent of U.S. cities ran recycling programs. During World War II, industry recycled and reused about 25 percent of the waste stream. Because of concern for the environment, recycling is again on the upswing. The nation’s composting and recycling rate rose from 7.7 percent of the waste stream in 1960 to 17 percent in 1990."(1)
```

Currently, the Portland metropolitan region is recycling around 40 percent and is moving toward meeting the State’s mandate of 64 percent by the end of 2009.

*Source: America Recycles.com*