

Extensive List of Common Items

Below is a list of common items and how to properly dispose of them. [Please click here to see our helpful hints and preparation tips on the last page.](#)

If you have a question about an item or would like one added to the list, please contact Public Works at 360.753.8588, or email publicworks@ci.olympia.wa.us.

ITEM	R E C Y C L E	O R G A N I C S	G A R B A G E	O T H E R	ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS Click the name below for contact information and location
Aerosol cans	●				
Aluminum cans	●				
Animal feces (place in bag)			●		
Animals, dead (some veterinarians will accept)			●	●	Please click here for a list of other options.
Antifreeze bottles (empty)			●		
Appliances				●	Thurston County Waste & Recovery Center
Aseptic containers (soy milk & broth)	●				
Ash, barbeque			●		
Asphalt			●	●	Concrete Recyclers (Tumwater)
Baby wipes			●		
Baked goods		●			
Batteries, Alkaline			●	●	Interstate Batteries
Batteries, other				●	Batteries Plus, Interstate Batteries
Batteries, rechargeable				●	Batteries Plus, Interstate Batteries, Call 2 Recycle
Beans		●			
Birdseed bags (paper only)		●			
Bleach jugs	●				
Bones (meat & seafood, raw or cooked)		●			
Books, hardcover & paperback	●				
Boxes, cereal & cracker (remove plastic liner)	●				
Boxes, drink with foil inside (small kid-size)			●		
Boxes, frozen food	●	●			
Boxes, juice (small, foil-lined)			●		
Boxes, produce (waxed)		●			
Boxes, shoe	●				
Branches (under 6" diameter)		●			
Bread		●			
Bread bags (no crumbs)			●	●	Grocery stores
Bricks				●	Olympia Salvage, Concrete Recyclers (Tumwater)
Bubble wrap			●	●	The Mailbox, The UPS Store
Cardboard (a little tape is okay)	●	●			
Cartons, ice cream (box or tub)		●			
Cartons, juice & milk (remove plastic spout)	●	●			
Cartons, soda & beer	●				
Ceramic items			●	●	Goodwill, Value Village
Cereal boxes (remove plastic liner)	●				

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Cheese		●			
Clamshell, clear plastic deli-style			●		
Clothes hangers (plastic & metal)			●	●	Goodwill, Value Village
Coffee grounds & filters		●			
Dairy products (cheese, etc.)		●			
Deli containers (plastic)			●		
Diapers			●		
Dirt				●	Bill McTurnal Enterprises (Shelton)
Eggshells		●			
Electronics, accessories & peripherals (keyboards, mice, printers, etc.)			●	●	Office Depot, Staples (fees apply)
Electronics, cell phones & PDAs				●	Safeplace, most manufacturers
Electronics, computers				●	Goodwill Stores (free)
Electronics, TVs or monitors				●	Goodwill Stores (free)
Fish & shellfish		●			
Floral trimmings		●			
Flowers		●			
Foil (clean)	●				
Foil, muffin & cupcake wrappers			●		
Food, plate scrapings & leftovers		●			
Food, scraps		●			
Food-soiled cardboard (such as pizza boxes)		●			
Food-soiled foil			●		
Food-soiled paper (paper plates, cups, towels & napkins)		●			
Food-soiled waxed or parchment paper		●			
Fruit		●			
Fruit stickers			●		
Glass, beer & wine bottles	●				
Glass, dishes or bowls				●	Goodwill, Value Village (unbroken)
Glass, drinking glasses				●	Goodwill, Value Village (unbroken)
Glass, figurines/decorative objects				●	Goodwill, Value Village (unbroken)
Glass, food jars	●				
Glass, liquor bottles	●				
Glass, tempered (shower doors)			●		
Glass, window (clean glass only, no frames)				●	Concrete Recyclers (Tumwater)
Glass, window (with frames, unbroken)				●	Olympia Salvage, Habitat for Humanity ReStore
Grass clippings		●			
Gum, chewing			●		
Kibble (pet food)		●			
Kitty litter (please bag)			●		
Leaves		●			

ITEM	R E C Y C L E	O R G A N I C S	G A R B A G E	O T H E R	ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS
Light bulbs, fluorescent				●	Olympia Supply, Ace Hardware, Puget Sound Energy
Light bulbs, regular			●		
Lint (dryer)			●		
Liquids (except oil & grease)				●	Pour down sanitary sewer or sink drain
Meat, raw or cooked		●			
Medication				●	Group Health Cooperative
Metal, clothes hangers			●	●	Goodwill, Value Village (unbroken)
Metal, dishes or bowls			●	●	Goodwill, Value Village (unbroken)
Metal, large items (engine blocks, etc.)				●	South Sound Steel (Tumwater)
Metal, plant pots				●	Goodwill, Value Village (unbroken)
Metal, pots & pans	●			●	Goodwill, Value Village (unbroken)
Metal, scrap			●	●	South Sound Steel (Tumwater)
Mirrors			●		
Motor oil & hazardous waste containers				●	Thurston County HazoHouse
Newspaper	●	●			
Noxious weeds (<i>Knapweed, Tansy, Gorse & Deadly Knightshade</i>)			●		
Oil or grease (commercial cooking)			●	●	Darling International Inc. (Tacoma)
Oil or grease (residential cooking)			●	●	Thurston County HazoHouse
Paper cups		●			
Paper deli wrap		●			
Paper egg cartons	●	●			
Paper fast food wrappers & bags		●			
Paper grocery bags	●	●			
Paper lunch bags	●	●			
Paper napkins		●			
Paper plates		●			
Paper sandwich wrappers (Subway, Meconis)		●			
Paper sticky notes	●				
Paper take-out containers		●			
Paper towels		●			
Paper, cardboard	●	●			
Paper, computer	●				
Paper, copy	●				
Paper, disposable cups, plates & utensils		●			
Paper, envelopes	●				
Paper, file folders	●				
Paper, freezer paper		●			
Paper, frozen food boxes	●	●			
Paper, glossy (ads)	●				
Paper, hardcover & paperback books	●				

ITEM	R E C Y C L E	O R G A N I C S	G A R B A G E	O T H E R	ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS
Paper, juice boxes		●			
Paper, junk mail	●				
Paper, magazines (dull & glossy)	●				
Paper, mailing envelopes (bubble plastic-lined)			●		
Paper, Manila envelopes	●				
Paper, microwave popcorn bags		●			
Paper, muffin & cupcake wrappers		●			
Paper, parchment		●			
Paper, shredded (place in paper bag)	●	●			
Paper, sticker-backing	●				
Paper, tissue & toilet			●		
Paper, waxed		●			
Paper/foil food wrapping			●		
Paperback books	●				
Pasta		●			
Pet food		●			
Pet food bags (there is a layer of plastic inside)			●		
Pet wastes (from cat or dog)			●		
Phone books	●				
Photographs & photographic paper			●		
Pizza		●			
Pizza boxes		●			
PLA plastics (aka vegetable-based plastics)*		●			*Must be certified : click here for more info
Plants		●			
Plastic bags			●	●	Grocery stores
Plastic buckets (kitty litter, pickle buckets)			●		
Plastic butter & margarine tubs	●				
Plastic cups			●		
Plastic film & saran wrap			●		
Plastic food containers			●		
Plastic grocery & retail bags			●	●	Grocery stores
Plastic or Styrofoam egg cartons			●		
Plastic straws			●		
Plastic toothpicks			●		
Plastic utensils			●		
Plastic, beverage bottles	●				
Plastic, CD & jewel cases			●		
Plastic, cellophane			●		
Plastic, clear deli clamshell containers			●		
Plastic, clear prescription vials (with medication)				●	Group Health Cooperative

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Plastic, clear prescription vials (without medication)			●		
Plastic, clothes hangers			●		
Plastic, coffee cup lids			●		
Plastic, coffee tubs	●				
Plastic, condiment containers	●				
Plastic, dairy tubs (cottage cheese, sour cream)	●				
Plastic, detergent bottles & jugs	●				
Plastic, dishes or bowls			●	●	Goodwill, Value Village (unbroken)
Plastic, frozen food bags			●		
Plastic, jugs	●				
Plastic, juice bottles	●				
Plastic, lids, caps & tops			●		
Plastic, liquor bottles	●				
Plastic, mailing envelopes (such as cd mailers)			●		
Plastic, milk jugs	●				
Plastic, over-the-counter medication bottles	●				
Plastic, plant pots			●	●	Goodwill, Value Village (unbroken)
Plastic, shampoo & conditioner bottles	●				
Plastic, snack & chip bags			●		
Plastic, soap & lotion bottles	●				
Plastic, soda & pop bottles	●				
Plastic, water bottles	●				
Plastic, yogurt cups	●				
Plastic/foil juice pouches			●		
Potted plants (potting soil okay; no plastic pots - paper or peat are okay)		●			
Pyrex			●		
Seafood		●			
Seasonal greens (wreaths, etc.)		●			
Shells, shellfish		●			
Sod				●	Bill McTurnal Enterprises (Shelton)
Stems		●			
Styrofoam (cups, containers & blocks)			●	●	DART Container Corp
Styrofoam (peanuts)				●	The Mailbox, The UPS Store
Tape			●		
Tea bags		●			
Tea leaves		●			
Tin cans	●				
Tree limbs (smaller than 6" diameter)		●			
Tyvek or polyethylene envelopes			●	●	DuPont Tyvek
Vegetables		●			

ITEM	R E C Y C L E	O R G A N I C	G A R B A G E	O T H E R	ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS
VHS, CDs, DVDs			●	●	Green Disk (Sammamish)
Weeds (except Knapweed, Tansy, Gorse & Deadly Knightshade)		●			
Wood chopsticks		●			
Wood crates		●			
Wood pallets		●		●	Liberty One Resources/Weiks Corp (Olympia)
Wood popsicle sticks		●			
Wood toothpicks		●	●		
Wood, treated & painted					
Wood, untreated (no paint or stains)		●			
Wreath greens (please remove from wire)		●			
Yard trimmings		●			

PREPARATION & HELPFUL HINTS

Recycle hints - dark green cart

Recycling plastics #1-7:

Do not worry about the number; just make sure that it is a bottle or jug, with the neck smaller than the base.

Put recycling materials in the cart separately:

Do not stuff cans, bottles & paper inside cereal boxes or bags.

Rinse & clean bottles, cans & jugs:

If there is significant food residual (such as condiment and peanut butter containers), give them a rinse.

Organics hints - bright green cart

Use common food cartons to collect food scraps: Such as ice cream or milk cartons.

Add food-soiled paper or shredded paper to cart:
This will help reduce odors.

Wrap food in newspaper:
This will alleviate fruit flies and odors.

Garbage hints - dark gray cart

Get a smaller cart: If you find that your garbage has reduced from recycling and organics collection, save money by reducing your garbage cart size.

In doubt? Not sure if it's recyclable or compostable? Please put it in the garbage to avoid contamination.

[Click here to return to top.](#)



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