

Recycling Right Basics



City of Auburn
Waste Management
Solid Waste & Recycling
253-939-9792

www.wmnorthwest.com/auburn

Commingled Recycling



- ▶ Clean, acceptable recyclables are mixed together and put into the blue recycling container. This is called commingled recycling.
- ▶ Recycling is taken to the recycling center and separated by machinery.
- ▶ The recycling machinery separates items by shape. It is important to only recycle items listed in the Auburn recycling guidelines. Recycling guidelines are mailed out annually and are also available online at www.wmnorthwest.com/auburn
- ▶ This presentation will review the materials accepted in Auburn's recycling program.
- ▶ **Thank you for Recycling Right!**

Recycling Reminders

Follow these simple tips so that your recycling counts, and doesn't get trashed!

- ▶ Place recycling loose in the recycling cart, not tied up in plastic bags.
 - ❑ Bagged items cannot be sorted by the recycling equipment. Unfortunately, bagged items are pulled off the sorting line and disposed of as garbage.
- ▶ Do not recycle plastic bags, plastic food wrap, bubble wrap, plastic packaging or plastic food packaging. Put these items in the garbage.
- ▶ Items must be empty and clean. No food waste, greasy or dirty items.
 - ❑ Food soiled and dirty items cause processing problems at the recycling center. If items are soiled, they can ruin other recyclable items.



Recycling Reminders (continued)

- ▶ **Got extra recyclables?** Keep extra recycling loose and dry in a covered container, labeled “recycle”. Place next to your recycling cart on your recycling service day. If you frequently have extra recycling, request a 2nd recycle cart from Waste Management (additional \$3.00 per month). **NO plastic bags.**
- ▶ **When in doubt, check it out:** You can find Waste Management recycle guidelines by:
 - ▶ Download online - www.wmnorthwest.com/auburn
 - ▶ Call - 253-939-9792



Paper and Cardboard



Preparation tips:

- ▶ Clean paper only, no food waste or food soiled paper (food-soiled *pizza boxes go into the garbage or the yard+food waste cart*).
- ▶ Flatten cardboard so there is enough room in your cart for your other recyclables.
- ▶ Flatten “extra” cardboard and place it next to your cart on your service day. Size limit: 3’ x 3’.

Metal



Preparation tips:

- ▶ Size 2' x 2' x 2' maximum
- ▶ 35 lbs. maximum
- ▶ NO wood, plastic or rubber attachments.
- ▶ Empty and rinse
- ▶ No sharp metal. NO scissors, knives, etc.
- ▶ Labels are ok. No need to remove them.
- ▶ Remove cords from small appliances, (these are “tanglers” at the recycle center)

Glass - Bottles & Jars



Preparation tips:

- ▶ Bottles & jars only. NO dishes, plates, mugs or drinking glasses.
- ▶ Empty and clean
- ▶ Remove lids
- ▶ All colors accepted
- ▶ Labels are ok. No need to remove them.

Plastic



Preparation tips:

- ▶ **ONLY** these shapes: **Bottles, jugs & tubs**. *Don't worry about the recycle symbol or numbers on plastic containers.*
 - ❑ **Bottles** (example: water bottles, soda pop, ketchup bottles)
 - ❑ **Jugs** (example: milk or laundry)
 - ❑ **Tubs** (example: yogurt or salsa)
- ▶ Empty and rinse
- ▶ All other plastic items should be put in the garbage or taken elsewhere for recycling. Visit <http://www.kingcounty.gov/WhatDoIdoWith>.

More helpful resources!

- ▶ **What happens to my recycling?** Watch this video to learn more about how your recycling is processed: <http://www.wmnorthwest.com/cascaderecycling/index.html>
- ▶ **Got other stuff to recycle?** Visit King County's "*What do I do with ...*" webpages at www.KingCounty.gov/WhatDoIDoWith
- ▶ **Reuse is better than recycling!** One person's trash can be another person's treasure. Donating or giving away reusable items are great ways to cut back on waste.
 - ▶ Buy Nothing groups on Facebook: Buy Nothing groups allow residents to gift each other items for free. Type "Buy Nothing" in the Facebook search.
 - ▶ Find a non-profit that will pick up your donations for free, visit: www.donationtown.org
- ▶ For more information and resources visit the Waste Management website at www.wmnorthwest.com/auburn



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Recycling Right!

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