

Additional Curbside Recyclables That Do Not Fit In the Cart

If you have additional recyclables that do not fit in your recycling cart, you may place them outside of your carts for collection *if prepared properly*.

How to Properly Prepare Additional Recyclables

Please place extra recycling in clear, plastic bags (up to 32-gallon and no more than 50 pounds) and place the bags next to your recycling cart. This includes **cutting down cardboard boxes to fit in those bags (please do *not* bundle or place in a bigger box)**. Most places that sell garbage bags also sell clear bags. Clear bags may be tinted a color, like blue or green, which is acceptable as long as the bags are transparent. If you choose to bag the recyclables *inside* your cart, please use these bags as well.

We are asking for everyone's help in preparing extra recyclables for collection properly.

Please do not overload your carts; the lids should be closed. If you consistently have more material than you can fit in your cart with the lid closed, please [contact Pellitteri](#) to discuss cart size or additional cart options.



Why Change Now?

This has always been our standard, but it was not strictly enforced previously. Several industry changes make it necessary:

- **Cardboard**
Online shopping has created a large increase in the amount of cardboard and paper that households produce. Meanwhile, the markets for cardboard and paper recycling have been struggling (if interested, please [view this article](#) from the president of one of the mills where your sorted paper is taken). **Placing extra recyclables in clear plastic bags ensures the material stays dry and recyclable.** When cardboard gets saturated it may not sort properly at the Material Recovery Facility, possibly leading it to end up in the trash. Wet material also downgrades the quality of the cardboard, which reduces the value of the cardboard and increases the cost of recycling.
- **Safety**
The spike in recycling has resulted in a large increase in the manual pickup of additional recycling, which results in additional service time for the routes and safety concerns. Proper preparation allows our service professionals to be efficient so that we can conform to the federal government's requirements limiting hours of service for drivers on route. The majority of injuries happen when drivers leave the safety of their vehicles.
- **New trucks**
A good portion of our residential truck fleet has been updated with side-loading systems. This system greatly reduces the issue of wind-blown materials. With the side-loading trucks, we must reload the recycling cart with the additional materials in order to dump the cart again. Therefore, **if the material is too big to be reloaded into the cart, it cannot be picked up.**

What Happens to My Recycling?

All recyclables that we collect are taken to Kipp Street Station - A Division of Pellitteri Waste Systems, which operates a state-of-the-art, fully automated MRF (Material Recovery Facility) which sorts single stream recyclables. Recyclables are sorted, baled and shipped to manufacturers to be made into new products. [See our video of the MRF in action!](#)

What About China?

There has been a lot of buzz recently about how recycling is changing across the nation due to stricter import rules from China. **So how is that affecting our programs now?** As a local family business, we have always worked diligently to find local buyers for our recyclables within the Midwest. So, when China made their changes, we didn't have issues finding purchasers for most of our materials. However, **it is more important than ever to make sure that the material we're sending them is not contaminated.** You can help by getting [Back to the Basics!](#)

So Where Does the Recycling Go?

Our paper and cardboard go to several places in the Midwest, like Indiana, with a big percentage of the recyclable material staying in Wisconsin. The majority of our plastics go to Michigan and Iowa. Aluminum goes to Tennessee. Glass goes to recyclers in Wisconsin. And, tin cans go to local recyclers right here in Madison, WI!

Thank You!

Thank you for your dedication to recycling!