



DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
MONTGOMERY COUNTY • MARYLAND

Reducing Waste and Recycling More in our Community



**Aiming for
Zero Waste**

Trash Doesn't Disappear



Why Recycle?

- Conserves natural resources
- Saves money by reducing waste collection and disposal costs
- Saves energy and water
- Enhances social responsibility and commitment to the environment
- Increases community health & morale
- It's the Law
- Helps to create jobs and sustain the environment for future generations



Recycling is the **LAW**

- **Executive Regulation 1-15**
 - Everyone living, working and visiting Montgomery County are required to recycle
 - All businesses, organizations, and local, state and Federal government facilities
 - Required recyclable materials; reporting requirements; container and labeling requirements; using licensed collectors
- **Executive Regulation 18-04**
 - Applies to collectors and haulers – required to maintain separation of recyclables from trash during collection, transportation and delivery to recycling/solid waste collection facilities
 - Provide notification to generators of recyclables contaminated with trash or trash in recycling containers before collection
- **Montgomery County Code Chapter 48**
 - Container requirements, storage and collection of solid waste

Dual Stream vs. Single Stream Recycling

Dual-Stream Collection

- Mixed paper and commingled materials are kept separate during collection, transportation & processing

Single-Stream Collection

- All recyclables are mixed together during collection/transportation and are later sorted at a recycling facility.
- *County does not provide collection services in the independent municipalities (i.e., Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Takoma Park)*



Internal Bin Placement

- Place recycling bins next to trash bins and make sure all bins are appropriately labeled.
- Paper recycling bins in offices and common area copy areas
- Recycling bins for cans, jars and containers in kitchens, breakrooms and all vending machine areas



Recycling at Home, Work and School



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County provides weekly curbside recycling collection service to:

- Entire County
- Refuse collection service mostly to down county area

County does not provide recycling or refuse collection service. They must either contract for collection or self-haul materials to the transfer station.

- Multi-family properties (with 7 or more dwelling units)
- Businesses, commercial properties, and not-for-profit organizations
- Local, state or federal government facilities



County does not provide collection services in the independent municipalities (i.e., Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Takoma Park)

Executive Regulation 1-15

Materials That Must Be Recycled



Mixed Paper



Commingled
Materials



Scrap Metal



Yard Trim



Christmas
Trees

Mixed Paper - Clean & Dry

Yes! * Hot and cold coffee cups are accepted only if clean, lightly rinse

CLEAN, DRY PAPER

OFFICE PAPER, NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINES, BOOKS,
SHREDDED PAPER, ENVELOPES, AND UNWANTED MAIL



CARDBOARD

CORRUGATED CARDBOARD
AND PAPERBOARD



No! * Always double check with your collector for specific requirements



Commingled Materials

Yes! Metal, glass & plastic bottles, jars, cans and containers



PLASTICS

**BOTTLES, JARS, CONTAINERS,
TUBS, CAPS AND LIDS**



METALS

**EMPTY, NON-HAZARDOUS AEROSOL
CANS, ALUMINUM AND STEEL/TIN
CANS, AND FOIL PRODUCTS**



GLASS

**GLASS BOTTLES
AND JARS**

No! Always check with your collector for specific requirements



Plastic Film



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Recycle at participating grocery/retail stores. **DO NOT** place in your blue bin at work/home.



- Product case wrap
- Newspaper bags
- Bread bags
- Ziploc®-type bags and shopping bags
- Produce bags
- Dry cleaner bags
- Air pillows
- Shopping bags



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIYLnHQ9peM>

Ban on Use and Sale of Polystyrene

Make the
Switch
FROM #6
PLASTICS



Use reusable, recyclable or compostable food service ware.

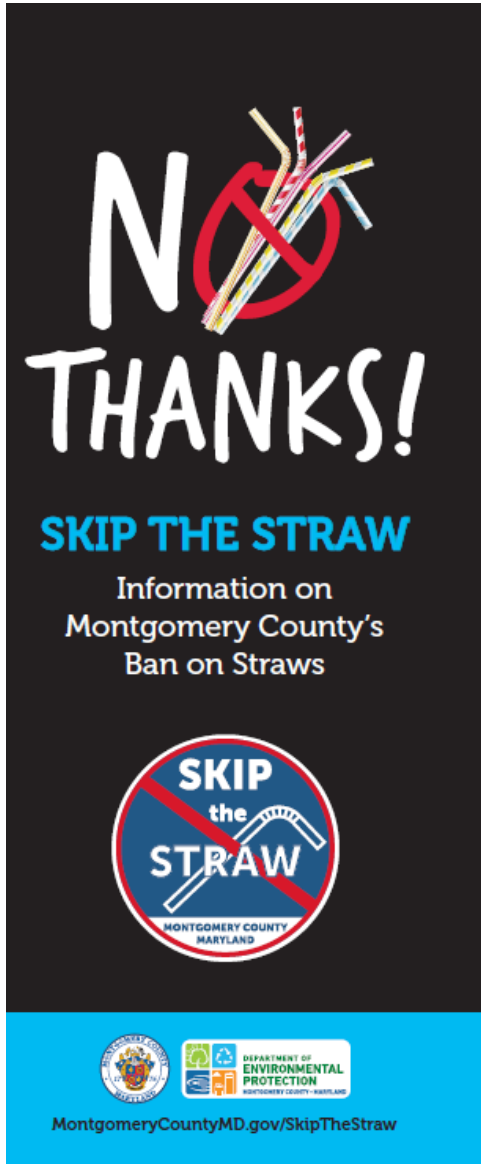
MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/SwitchFromSix



Businesses that must comply include:

- All food service businesses, including full-service restaurants, limited-service restaurants, fast food restaurants, cafes, delicatessens, coffee shops, supermarkets, grocery stores, vending trucks or carts, food trucks, businesses or institutional cafeterias located in Montgomery County, Maryland
- Food service ware must be reusable, compostable or recyclable in Montgomery County
- Also applies to all retailers in Montgomery County, Maryland
- Visit MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/SwitchFromSix for more information

Ban on Single Use Straws





**NO
THANKS!**

SKIP THE STRAW

Information on
Montgomery County's
Ban on Straws

**SKIP
the
STRAW**
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
MARYLAND

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MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/SkipTheStraw

- A restaurant may not provide a straw to a dine-in customer, except upon customer request
- Food service businesses must post information that plastic straws will no longer be provided to a customer, with exceptions
- May provide only reusable, home compostable, or marine degradable straw to a customer only upon the customer's request
- Food service businesses may maintain a supply of plastic straws to provide to customers upon request to meet disability rights laws
- Visit MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/SkipTheStraw for more information

Scrap Metal & Appliances

***DO NOT PLACE IN OFFICE & RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING BINS**

How to recycle scrap metal at your business?

- Schedule collection service with a scrap metal recycling collection company
- Self-haul scrap metal to Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility/Transfer Station or to a scrap metal recycling company

How to recycle scrap metal at your single-family home?

- Call 311 or register online to schedule a scrap metal recycling pickup
- Self-haul scrap metal to Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility/Transfer Station or to a scrap metal recycling company

Do not recycle with scrap metal...

- Commingled materials such as aluminum cans and foil products and bi-metal steel/tin cans



Yard Trim/Christmas Trees



Yard trim, including grass clippings, leaves and brush, must be composted. If you have green space on your property or are in a horticulturally oriented business, you probably have leaves, grass clippings, and brush that must be reduced, composted or recycled. The most preferred option is to grasscycle or compost yard trim materials on-site, directly at the source. Only in instances where materials cannot be handled on-site, should they be transported off-site to a composting facility.

Live **Christmas trees** must be composted. If you display live trees at your business, contact your landscaper or grounds staff to compost with yard trim materials, or self-haul to a composting facility.



Grasscycling

- Saves time
- Returns valuable nutrients to the soil
- Protects the environment by reducing run-off due to rain and melting snow
- Reduces cost of collecting yard trim for processing



Backyard Composting

A simple way to recycle your yard trimmings and protect the environment!

- **Grass**
- **Leaves**
- **Garden trimmings**

A natural process in which yard trim materials decompose into a dark, nutrient-rich, sweet-smelling soil conditioner for use on lawns, in gardens, or mixed with potting soil



Backyard Food Composting

Composting food scraps, such as vegetable peelings, requires more steps and monitoring, to reduce odors and the risk of pests.

Montgomery County, Maryland requires the use of a rodent-proof compost bin, with a tight-fitting lid, to compost food scraps.

Adding food scraps in an open compost pile or in a compost bin with no lid, is problematic because this attracts rodents and other pests.

The [compost bins](#) currently provided by the County are designed for composting yard trim, because they are completely open on the top and the bottom and have aerating holes all around the sides. Please keep food scraps out of these bins.



Food Scraps Recycling

- An estimated 89,000 tons of food scraps are disposed in the waste stream each year in the County.
- Donate edible foods to a food assistance provider.
- Inedible food scraps can be recycled by setting up collection service with a food scraps recycling collection provider.



FOOD SCRAPS

(and Other Acceptable Organic Materials)



Fruits, Vegetables,
Meats, Fish,
& Bones



Breads, Grains,
Baked Goods,
& Dairy Products



Soiled Paper Products
& Compostable
Containers



Food Scraps Recycling Drop off Locations

Olney

[Olney Farmers and Artists Market](#)

2801 Sandy Spring Road

Olney, MD 20832

Silver Spring

[FreshFarm Downtown Silver Spring](#)

1 Veterans Plaza

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Derwood

[Compost Crew \(Subscription Drop-off Service\)](#)

True Respite

7301 Calhoun Place #600

Derwood, MD 20855

Derwood Market
16501 Redland Rd
Rockville, MD 20855
April 6th to Oct 6th 2025

Dos and Don'ts at Food Scraps Recycling Drop-Offs

✔ DO RECYCLE ✔	✘ DON'T RECYCLE ✘
 Fruit & vegetable scraps  Cooked food  Meat, fish, bones  Dairy (cheese & yogurt)  Coffee grounds & tea leaves (remove all filters)  Eggshells  Bread & grains	 Pet waste  Napkins or paper  Foodware or packaging  Yard trim  Pizza boxes  Liquids  Produce stickers  Rubber bands

Food Scraps Recycling Drop off Locations

Gaithersburg

[City of Gaithersburg Public Works](#)

800 Rabbitt Road

Gaithersburg, MD 20878

(City of Gaithersburg residents only)

[Casey Community Center](#)

810 South Frederick Avenue

Gaithersburg, MD 20877

(City of Gaithersburg residents only)

Germantown

[Red Wiggler Farm](#)

23400 Ridge Road

Germantown, MD 20876

(members of their CSA - Community Supported
Agriculture Program only)

Rockville

[Maintenance Facility](#)

14625 Rothgeb Drive

Rockville, MD 20850

(City of Rockville residents only)

[Rockville Senior Center](#)

1150 Carnation Drive

Rockville, MD 20850

(City of Rockville residents only)

Bethesda

[Bethesda Central Farm Market](#)

7600 Arlington Road

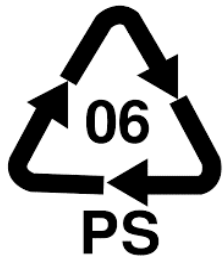
Bethesda, MD 20814

Trash Only

***Check with your collector for specific requirements**



- Plastic utensils
- Plastic straws
- # 6 plastics such as foam/Styrofoam® and #6 rigid plastic cups/containers
- Protein bar and candy wrappers
- Chip bags
- Soiled or greasy paper plates and napkins



Electronics

*DO NOT PLACE IN OFFICE & RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING BINS

- Computers and Monitors
- Power Cords and Cables
- Cell Phones, PDAs, Pagers
- DVD/VCR Players
- Digital Cameras
- Fax Machines
- Power Strips and Chargers



How to recycle electronics?

- Self-haul electronics to Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility/Transfer Station or to an electronics recycling company
- Schedule collection service with an electronics recycling collection company
- Utilize recycling programs through retailers like Best Buy, Staples, etc. (cell phones, ink toner cartridges)

Keep Batteries Out!



Batteries Can Cause Trash Fires – Keep Batteries Out of Your Trash Containers at Work

Las baterías pueden causar incendios en la basura: mantenga las baterías fuera de los contenedores de basura en el trabajo
電池可能會導致垃圾起火——工作時請勿將電池放進垃圾桶

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF USED BATTERIES TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FIRE:

Deseche correctamente las baterías usadas para reducir el riesgo de incendio:
請妥善處理廢舊電池以降低火災風險：

1. Keep all batteries out of the trash.

Mantenga todas las baterías fuera de la basura.
請勿將任何電池放進垃圾桶。

2. Set-up a battery recycling program at your workplace.

Establezca un programa de reciclaje de baterías en su lugar de trabajo.
在您的工作場所設立一個電池回收計劃。

3. Visit MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/RecycleRight for more information.

Visite MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/RecycleRight para obtener más información.
如欲瞭解更多資訊，請瀏覽：MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/RecycleRight。



 MONTGOMERYCOUNTYMD.GOV/RECYCLERIGHT  311 • 240-777-0311 • TTY MD RELAY 711

- Batteries placed in trash and recycling containers can cause fires.
- Keep **all** types of batteries out of both trash and recycling containers.
- Set up a battery collection program at your workplace.
- Bring batteries to a collection location.

Hazardous/ Universal Wastes



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*DO NOT PLACE IN OFFICE & RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING BINS

- Light Bulbs & Ballasts
- Lead acid & rechargeable batteries
- Pesticides
- Paints
- Flammable, corrosive, reactive, radiological liquids, chemical and materials
- Acids and Caustics
- Toxic Metals
- Used solvents & motor oil
- Paints
- Sludges
- Contaminated soils



Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station

- Other recycling services available:

- Tires (limit 5 annually)
- Scrap Metal
- Clothing, textiles, and shoes
- Rigid Plastics
- Electronics and TVs
- Batteries, antifreeze and motor oil
- Cooking oil (limit 5 gallons per visit)
- Usable construction/building materials
- Helium and propane tanks
- Hazardous waste (proper disposal)
- Yard Trim
- Mattresses (Accepting as of April 2023)
- Gently Used Medical Equipment for Reuse (as of May 2023)

16101 Frederick Road (Route 355)
Monday - Friday: 7:00am - 8:00pm
Saturday: 7:00am - 5:00pm
Sunday: 9:00am - 5:00pm



Beauty & Medical Waste



- Various empty makeup containers can be recycled at participating drop-off locations through [Pact Collective](#) at Sephora locations, Nordstroms, Saks Fifth Avenue, & Nordstroms Rack
- Accepts pumps, caps, closures, squeezable tubes, compacts, palettes, pencils, mascara tubes and wands, lipstick, lip gloss, applicators
- Prescription drug disposal boxes located in all six Montgomery County Department of Police district station lobbies for residents' use.
- DEA take back programs in partnership with CVS & Walgreen Pharmacies. Year-Round Drop-Off Locations - Search Utility (usdoj.gov)
- Sharps & Needles Mail back Programs
- Sharps Assure
- MedProDisposal



Fix It Fair

Saturdays, February 8 and June 14, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at [Casey Community Center](#). In 2022, our volunteers successfully fixed 95% of items brought in. We look forward to continuing this effort.

The City is seeking volunteer “fixers” with experience in:

- Textile/clothing repairs
- Tool sharpening & mower blade sharpening
- Jewelry
- Lamps
- Small appliances
- Bicycle maintenance - tube patching, alignment, and oiling

Volunteer fixers will be provided with basic information on each appointment up to two weeks in advance of the event. Fixers must provide the necessary equipment and tools for their area of expertise.

Event attendees will register online up to two weeks prior to the event. Bookings will be in 30-minute time slots. Attendees will be informed that each repair will occur during the appointed time and that a complete fix is not guaranteed at this event.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact environment@gaitHERSBURGmd.gov. Please include the type of material you can repair and samples of your success.



Donate

- [A Wider Circle](#) (accepts furniture and household items to individuals and families transitioning out of homelessness)
- [Donation Town](#) & [Green Drop](#) (provides pickup services for a variety of charitable organizations...schedule by charity or date)
- [Local Public Schools & libraries](#)
- [Good Will](#) (accepts gently-used items for resale, proceeds fund employment training and job placement services in the community)
- [Leveling the playing field-](#) accepts used sports equipment to help youth sports groups in the area
- [Second Chance](#): deconstruct buildings and homes, salvaging usable materials and donated items available to the public for reuse
- [Habitat for Humanity Restore](#): Home improvement accepting small and large donations of gently used furniture for resale.
- [Buy Nothing Project](#)
- [Facebook marketplace](#)
- [Freecycle](#)
- [Nextdoor](#)
- [Ebay, and Craigslist,](#)



Resources

<https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/depwebstore/>



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Commingled Materials Recycling Reciclaje de Envases Combinados

Plastic bottles
Botellas de plástico

Plastic flower pots, buckets, jars, containers, caps & lids
Macetas de plástico, cubos, frascos, recipientes y tapas

Glass bottles & jars
Botellas y envases de vidrio

Plastic durable reusable containers & lids, B or PET containers & packaging
Contenedores y tapas reutilizables durables de plástico y envases, y empaques de PET #1

Aluminum & steel/tin cans, & foil products
Latas de aluminio y acero/hojalaca, y productos de aluminio

Empty, non-hazardous aerosol cans
Latas de aerosol vacías no peligrosas

The following items should not be placed in your commingled materials recycling container.
Los siguientes artículos no deben colocarse en el contenedor de reciclaje de envases combinados.

No plastic bottles that contained aerosols, foams or hazardous materials.
No botellas de plástico que contuvieran espumas, aerosoles o materiales peligrosos.

No plastic bags, film or stretch wrap, or B or polyethylene Styrofoam™.
No sacos de plástico, películas, envolturas de estiramiento o polietileno de B o B o poliestireno de Styrofoam™.

Check with your business or property manager for more information on your recycling program.
If you see overflowing containers or trash on the ground, call your property manager, or 311 or 240-777-0311.

Para más información sobre su programa de reciclaje verifique con el administrador de su propiedad. Si observa contenedores desbordándose o basura en el piso, llame al administrador de su propiedad o al 311 o 240-777-0311.

Follow us on social media!
Síguenos en redes sociales!

MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/recycling
Call 311 or 240-777-0311 • TTY: 800 Relay 711

BUSINESS RECYCLING IT'S THE LAW

COMMINGLED MATERIALS RECYCLING

PLASTICS
BOTTLES, JARS, CONTAINERS, TUBS, CAPS AND LIDS

GLASS
GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS

METALS
EMPTY, NON-HAZARDOUS AEROSOL CANS, ALUMINUM AND STEEL/TIN CANS, AND FOIL PRODUCTS

MIXED PAPER RECYCLING

CLEAN, DRY PAPER
OFFICE PAPER, NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINES, BOOKS, SHREDDED PAPER, ENVELOPES, AND UNWANTED MAIL

CARDBOARD
CORRUGATED CARDBOARD, PAPERBOARD, AND COATED-PAPER CARTONS/BOXES

OTHER RECYCLABLES

YARD TRIM
CHRISTMAS TREES
SCRAP METAL

KEEP THESE OUT!

Polystyrene/Styrofoam™
Plastic Bags, Wrap, or Film
Paper Towels, Napkins and Tissues, Paper with Food Residue

Electronic Devices
Syringes
Latex Gloves

For more information call 3-1-1 or 240-777-0311 • TTY MD Relay 711, or visit [Montgomery County MD.gov/RecycleRight](https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/RecycleRight)

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Twitter: @Montgomery DEP
Flickr: DEP Montgomery County
YouTube: Montgomery County DEP

MIXED PAPER RECYCLING

CLEAN, DRY PAPER
OFFICE PAPER, NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINES, BOOKS, SHREDDED PAPER, ENVELOPES, AND UNWANTED MAIL

CARDBOARD
CORRUGATED CARDBOARD AND PAPERBOARD

KEEP THESE ITEMS OUT!

Plastic Bags
Polystyrene/Styrofoam™
Paper with Food Residue
Tissues, Paper Towels, Napkins, Toilet Paper

RECYCLE MORE NOW!
MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/recycling • Call 311 or 240-777-0311 • TTY: MD Relay 711

COMMINGLED MATERIALS

PLASTICS
BOTTLES, JARS, CONTAINERS, TUBS, CAPS AND LIDS

METALS
EMPTY, NON-HAZARDOUS AEROSOL CANS, ALUMINUM AND STEEL/TIN CANS, AND FOIL PRODUCTS

GLASS
BOTTLES AND JARS

KEEP THESE ITEMS OUT!

Plastic Bags, Wrap, or Film
Polystyrene/Styrofoam™
Electronics
Syringes and Latex Gloves

RECYCLE MORE NOW!
MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/recycling • Call 311 or 240-777-0311 • TTY: MD Relay 711

Mixed Paper Recycling Reciclaje de Papel Mixto

Clean, dry paper
Todo tipo de papel limpio y seco

Unwanted mail & envelopes
Correo y sobres descartables

Hardcover, paperback, & label-free books
Libros de tapa dura y blanda que no tengan etiquetas

Magazines, catalogs, & newspapers
Revistas, catálogos y periódicos

Coated paper cartons/boxes
Cartones/cajas recubiertas de papel

Cardboard & paperboard
Cartón y cartón-blo

The following items should not be placed in your mixed paper recycling container.
Los siguientes artículos no deben colocarse en el contenedor de reciclaje de papelería.

No greasy or waxed paper products.
Productos de papel grasosos o encerados.

No plastic bags, film or stretch wrap, or B or polyethylene Styrofoam™.
No sacos de plástico, películas, envolturas de estiramiento o polietileno de B o B o poliestireno de Styrofoam™.

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Questions? Need More Information?



Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection Recycling and Resource Management Division Waste Reduction and Recycling Section SORRT Program

Barbara Fonseca, Program Specialist II
Barbara.Fonseca@montgomerycountymd.gov
Cell: 240-832-8186

MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/RecycleRight