Recycling guide

Paper

- Mail, office and school papers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspapers and inserts
- Paperback books

Boxes

- Cardboard
- Cereal and cracker boxes
- Shoe and gift boxes
- Toothpaste, medication and other toiletry boxes

Cartons

- Milk cartons
- Juice boxes
- Soup, broth and wine cartons

Glass

- Food and beverage bottles and jars

Plastic

Bottles and jugs

- Water, soda and juice bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Ketchup and salad dressing bottles
- Dishwashing bottles and detergent jugs
- Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles

Cups and containers

- Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups
- Clear disposable cups and bowls
- Margarine, cottage cheese and other containers
- Produce, deli and takeout containers

Metal

- Food and beverage cans
- Aluminum foil and trays
- Decorative tins and pie tin

Preparation instructions

Items should be clean and empty – give them a quick rinse before recycling.

Don't bag your recyclables – place them loose in your recycling cart.

Don't crush cans, plastic bottles or cartons.

Not accepted

- Batteries and electronics
- Containers that held hazardous products
- Dishes, drinking glasses, windows and mirrors
- Freezer boxes and paper ice cream tubs
- Hoses, cords and string lights
- Paper cups and plates
- Paper or foam egg cartons
- Paper towels and napkins
- Plastic bags, film and wrap
- Plastic foam (Styrofoam™)
- Plastic utensils and straws
- Shredded paper

Recycle smart

Know what goes in your recycling cart

The best way to support recycling is to recycle the right stuff. Putting items in your recycling cart that aren't accepted can interfere with the recycling process, damage equipment, harm workers and ultimately result in things not getting recycled. If you aren't sure an item can be recycled, contact the city or put it in the garbage.

Keep these items out of your recycling cart

Bags of recyclables: Don't put your recycling in bags. Place recycling loose in your cart.

Plastic bags and film: These items get tangled in the equipment at sorting facilities. Bring to a retail drop-off to be recycled.

Large plastic items: Plastic lawn furniture and toys are difficult to sort at recycling facilities and there aren't good markets for recycling them.

Random metal items: Pots, pans, pipes, hangers, tools and other random metal items can damage equipment and harm workers at sorting facilities. Scrap metal can be recycled, just not inside your recycling cart. Visit **www.stlouispark.org/recycling** for more options.

Batteries: Batteries can cause fires in recycling trucks and at sorting facilities. Bring batteries to a Hennepin County drop-off facility in Bloomington or Brooklyn Park to be recycled.

Paper cups and plates and plastic utensils and straws: These items are often contaminated with food, are difficult to sort at recycling facilities and don't have good recycling markets. Avoid them by opting for reusable items.

St. Louis Park Public Works

www.stlouispark.org/recycling
952.924.2562

How to sign up

Residents with the city's solid waste service can sign up by visiting **www.stlouispark.org/organics** or calling utility billing at 952.924.2111. The city provides compostable bags, a wheeled cart and weekly collection at no additional cost.

Multifamily residents who do not receive city solid waste service can sign up to participate at one of several city operated drop-sites. Visit **www.stlouispark.org/MFrecycling** for more information.

Tips

Focus on food scraps

Focus on collecting food. Food scraps are the most common material in the trash and the most nutrient-rich material in the composting process. If you're still unsure if an item is accepted, contact public works staff at 952.924.2562 or recycling@stlouispark.org.

Lose the liquids and keep it cool

When collecting organics, don't include liquids. Liquids sitting in a compostable bag will weaken the bag. Also, allow warm foods, coffee grounds and tea bags to cool before placing them in the bag.

Don't overfill bags

Heavier bags are more likely to tear. Letting organics sit in the bag too long will weaken the bag, so make sure to take it out at least once per week. Only fill the bag two-thirds full so it's easier to tie.

Use a vented container to help control odors

Air flow helps reduce odors. Purchase a kitchen pail with a vented lid or make your own by reusing an empty plastic or metal container (ice cream pails or coffee containers work well) and cutting slits in the lid.

Organics guide

All food

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, fish and bones
- Dairy products
- Eggs and egg shells
- Pasta, beans and rice
- Bread and cereal
- Nuts and shells

Certified compostable products

- Compostable paper and plastic cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers

Compostable products must have the BPI logo on the product or the package it is sold in.

Not accepted

Yard waste: grass clippings, leaves, sticks

Recyclables: cartons, glass, metal, paper, plastic

Trash: animal waste, litter or bedding, cleaning and baby wipes, diapers, dryer lint, dryer sheets, fast food wrappers, foam packaging, frozen food boxes, grease or oil, gum, microwavable popcorn bags, menstrual products, paper ice cream tubs, paper towels used with cleaning chemicals products labeled "biodegradable" that are not certified compostable

Food-soiled paper

- Pizza boxes from delivery
- Napkins and food-soiled paper towels
- Paper egg cartons

Other compostable household items

- Coffee grounds and filters
- Hair and nail clippings
- Cotton balls and swabs with paper stems
- Houseplants and flowers
- Wooden chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks

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St. Louis Park
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