

Recycling guide for apartments, condos, and townhomes



Learn what you can recycle and how to reduce waste

Recycling and organics collection are both easy and convenient ways to reduce your trash and protect the environment. Do your part by learning what you can recycle and compost and how to start or improve waste reduction efforts at your apartment, condo, or townhome.

Information on how to dispose of bulky items not accepted in curbside recycling is also included.

Introduction

This guide provides an overview of waste disposal options for residents in apartments, condos, and townhomes.

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Not sure how to get rid of something? Check the Green Disposal Guide



The Green Disposal Guide will help you figure out the best reuse, recycling, and disposal options for common items, including furniture, mattresses, and TVs. Search the guide at hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide

Recycling guide

The following items can be recycled in your recycling cart or dumpster. This list is the same for all waste hauling companies in the Twin Cities metro area.

Plastic bottles, jugs, cups, containers

Plásticos: botellas, jarras, copas y envases

Recycle plastics # 1, 2, 5
Leave caps on



No: Plastic bags or film, shipping envelopes, #6 plastics, black plastics, Styrofoam™, containers that held hazardous substances

Paper, boxes, cardboard

Papeles, cajas, cajas de cartón

Flatten boxes



No: Napkins, paper towels, paper plates, ice cream tubs, coffee cups

Glass bottles and jars

Botellas y frascos de vidrio



No: Drinking glasses, pyrex, ceramics, mirrors

Metal cans

Latas metales

Do not crush cans



No: Paint cans, propane cylinders, helium tanks, containers that held hazardous substances

Cartons

Cartones

Do not flatten



No: Paper or Styrofoam™ egg cartons, ice cream tubs

Improving recycling in your building



Recycling service is required at apartments, condos, and townhomes. If you don't have recycling or think your building could recycle better, the City of St. Louis Park can help. Contact the solid waste division at 952-924-2562 or recycling@stlouisparkmn.gov to request free assistance and resources.



Keep plastic bags out of the recycling

Place recycling loose in your recycling cart or dumpster.

Do not put plastic bags or bagged recycling in your recycling cart or dumpster.

Recycling in plastic bags will not get recycled.

Do not recycle items that are too small

Items that are smaller than 3 inches by 3 inches are not accepted. They are too small to be properly sorted at the recycling facility.

How to recycle items that should not be put in the recycling bin or dumpster



Plastic bags

Plastic bags can be recycled if brought to a retail drop-off. Many local grocery and retail stores offer collection of plastic bags for recycling. Don't put plastic bags in your recycling cart or bag your recyclables in plastic bags.



Scrap metal

Scrap metal should be brought to city cleanup day events, to a drop-off, or to a scrap metal recycler. Don't place these items in your recycling cart as they are not accepted by the recycling facility and can harm people who work at the facility on sorting lines.



Textiles

Textiles, including clothing, blankets, and towels, can be collected or dropped off at certain organizations for reuse or recycling. These items should never be placed in your recycling cart. Visit stlouisparkmn.gov/reuse for more information.



Mattresses

Mattresses and box springs cannot be placed in the recycling. Bring old mattresses to city cleanup days to be recycled, to one of Hennepin County's drop-off facilities, or schedule a pickup (secondchancerecyclingmn.com). All of these options will charge a fee.



Furniture

Furniture cannot go in the recycling. However, if it is in good condition, it can be donated. Visit hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide for options and more details on how to dispose of furniture that cannot be donated.



Electronics

Electronics (including laptops, cell phones, TVs, and keyboards) can be recycled for a fee at city cleanup days and Hennepin County drop-off facilities.



Shredded paper

Shredded paper cannot go in the recycling because it won't get sorted properly at the recycling facility. Opt for paperless billing when you can. Limit what you shred to confidential items, such as medical, financial, and tax documents. Bring unshredded paper to a shred event, city cleanup day, or business that offers shredding services.



City cleanup days



The city holds two cleanup day events each year, one in spring and one in fall. These annual events offer collection for disposal, recycling, or reuse for large bulky waste, scrap metal, mattresses and box springs, electronics, bicycles, tires, electrical cords, and holiday lights.

Visit stlouisparkmn.gov/cleanup for more information. A reminder will be sent by mail before each event.



Participate in organics recycling

Food scraps can be turned into nutrient-rich compost - a valuable resource that improves soil, reduces soil erosion, and decreases the need for chemical fertilizers. Keep food scraps out of the trash by participating in organics collection.

Organics drop-off sites



The city operates 11 drop-off sites for multifamily residents to use for organics collection. Compostable bags are provided annually at no additional cost. Exact locations are provided upon sign up.

Visit stlouisparkmn.gov/mfrecycling to learn more and sign up.

Onsite collection

If your building is interested in starting onsite collection of organics, contact Hennepin County to receive technical and financial assistance at apartmentrecycling@hennepin.us.

Reduce waste



Swaps

The city hosts swap events to encourage and support reuse. These events are open to everyone, including non-residents. Annually, the city hosts a clothing swap, gardening swap, and media swap. More information (including dates and times) is available at stlouisparkmn.gov/reuse



Fix-it Clinics

Get free, guided assistance from volunteers to fix your broken household appliances, clothing, electronics, and more at a Hennepin County Fix-It Clinic. Learn more and find the schedule of upcoming clinics at hennepin.us/fixitclinic



Donate usable items

Donating usable items is a great way to help your community and reduce waste. Always check with organizations before donating to find out what they accept, and only donate items that are in good condition.

Medicine disposal



Bring unwanted or unused medicines to a medicine drop box for safe disposal.

All types of medicines from households are accepted, including prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, supplements, and pet medicines.

Learn more and find medicine drop box locations at hennepin.us/medicine

Household needles and sharps disposal



Sharps include hypodermic needles, pen needles, intravenous needles, used epi-pens, lancets, and syringes. Never place containers with used needles or sharps in a recycling bin.

Disposal options for needles and sharps include:

- Check if your healthcare provider has a collection program.
- Destroy at home. Search options for devices and containers with mechanisms that can bend, break, incinerate, or shear needles and sharps.
- Use a mail-back program, such as one offered by Stericycle, Inc., Sharps, Inc., GRP Medical Services, or MedPro Disposal.
- Bring to a Hennepin County drop-off facility. Store needles and sharps in a rigid, puncture-resistant, plastic container with a screw-on lid and label the container, "Do not recycle: Household sharps". Do NOT use a glass container.



Find more information at hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide/items/needles-sharps

Hennepin County drop-off facilities

What to bring • Proof of residency, such as a driver's license or utility bill • Payment, if applicable – cash, check, debit or credit card	Keeping safe • Remain in your vehicle unless otherwise directed by staff • Store items in the trunk of the vehicle, bed of truck, or in a trailer. Staff will remove items.
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For the most current facility information go to hennepin.us/dropoffs or call 612-348-3777.



Brooklyn Park
8100 Jefferson Highway
Brooklyn Park, 55445



Bloomington
1400 West 96th Street
Bloomington, 55431

Hazardous waste collection events

Collection events provide more convenient local disposal options for household hazardous wastes. Find a schedule and list of materials accepted at hennepin.us/collectionevents



City of St. Louis Park
7305 Oxford Street
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

952-924-2562
recycling@stlouisparkmn.gov
stlouisparkmn.gov/mfrecycling

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