

new yorkers recycle more!



new york city is committed to recycling.

Recycling is the law in New York City. Our goal—as stated in the comprehensive solid waste management plan—is to recycle 25% of our residential waste stream.

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) collects all your trash and recycling, and we just completed an extensive study to find out what's in NYC's residential waste.

We found that New Yorkers recycle about 18% of their overall waste, but that's only *half* of what could be recycled!

Enclosed is everything you need to know to **recycle more** and **waste less**. For more info, call 311 or visit these websites:

www.nyc.gov/sanitation: collection info and decal/literature orders

www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless: recycling and waste prevention info

www.nyccompost.org: home composting and lawn care info

www.nyc.gov/nycstuffexchange: where to donate, buy, or sell used stuff



recycle more, waste less!

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, City of New York
John J. Doherty, Commissioner, Department of Sanitation



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Save for reference—or recycle it!





recycle more, waste less every day!

Recycling more is a relatively simple thing that you can do every day to help the city and the environment.

- **Recycle more mixed paper and cardboard.** You can recycle every bit of unwanted mail—and cardboard packaging, too.
- **Better yet, remove your name from mailing lists** to receive less unwanted mail. See more tips on www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless.
- **Recycle more metal & foil, glass bottles & jars, plastic bottles & jugs, and milk & juice cartons.** All of your household metal can be recycled, even those broken scissors and metal appliances.
- **Attach the enclosed static cling recycling checklist to your fridge**, to help remind you what to recycle. Need more info about recycling? Visit www.nyc.gov/recycle.
- Want to improve recycling in your apartment building? Join the Department of Sanitation's **Apartment Building Recycling Initiative**. See enclosed info.
- **NYC composts** your fall leaves and Christmas trees. You can compost even more. Get all the dirt on composting at www.nyccompost.org.
- **Donate more of your stuff.** Check out our new NYC Stuff Exchange website: www.nyc.gov/nycstuffexchange. It's a quick and easy way to find out where to donate, buy, or sell gently used goods in New York City.



nyc recycles

paper & cardboard

New Yorkers recycle over 7,000 tons (14 million pounds!) of paper every week.

But each year a lot of paper (about 300,000 tons) that **COULD** be recycled is put in the trash—instead of the recycling bin!

what to recycle

- **white, colored & glossy paper** (staples OK)
- **mail & envelopes**
- **wrapping paper** (remove ribbon and tape)
- **smooth cardboard** (boxes, tubes from paper towel and toilet paper rolls, cardboard from product packaging)
- **paper bags**
- **cardboard egg cartons & trays**
- **newspapers, magazines & catalogs**
- **phone books & softcover books** (paperbacks, comic books, etc.; no spiral bindings)
- **corrugated cardboard** (flatten boxes)



what **NOT** to recycle

- **soiled paper**
- **waxed or plastic-coated paper**
- **hardcover books**
- **soft paper** (napkins, paper towels, tissues)

how to recycle

Just place all paper in **CLEAR** plastic bags, or an unlined rigid container labeled **MIXED PAPER**, or any bin with this **green** decal.

Call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/recycle to get **free decals**, **recycling checklist magnets**, or other recycling info.



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waste less
paper

reduce "junk" mail

- Write "do not share my info" whenever you provide your name & address.
- Fill out and **send in the privacy offers**, instructing companies not to share your info with third parties.
- **Contact companies directly** to ask them to cancel duplicates or remove your name from their mailing list. You can use their reply cards or toll-free phone numbers.
- **Tell your banks and credit card companies** not to send you credit card checks if you don't want them.
- **Register for the Direct Marketing Association's Mail Preference Service** at www.the-dma.org (click on *Remove my name from mailing lists*). There's a \$1 verification fee.
- **Opt out of credit card offers:** call **1-888-5-OPTOUT**.



save paper

- **Use both sides.** Designate a spot to collect one-sided paper; use it to print draft copies, for kids' artwork and homework, and for notes or "to do" lists.
- **Donate books or magazines** to interested hospitals, nursing homes, and after-school programs. See www.nyc.gov/nycstuffexchange to find out where.



recycle more paper

- **Place a recycling bin** where you sort mail, pay your bills, and do the most paperwork.
- **Establish a place in the kitchen** to recycle cardboard packaging.
- **Place newspapers, magazines & catalogs with other paper** in your recycling bag or bin—no need to bundle and tie.
- Flatten and **tie large corrugated boxes**, or else break them into small pieces to put in your recycling bag or bin.





nyc recycles

metal & foil
glass bottles & jars
plastic bottles & jugs
milk & juice cartons

New Yorkers recycle over 4,600 tons (9.2 million pounds!) of designated metal, glass, and plastic every week. But each year a lot of metal (about 100,000 tons) that **COULD** be recycled is thrown in the trash—instead of the recycling bin!

what to recycle

- **metal: all types**

cans (soup, pet food, empty aerosol cans, dried-out paint cans, etc.)

aluminum foil wrap & trays

household metal (wire hangers, pots, pans, etc.)

bulk metal (metal furniture, cabinets, appliances, etc.)

- **glass: bottles & jars only**

- **plastic: bottles & jugs only**

- **beverage cartons:**

(processed with metal, glass, and plastic recyclables)

milk & juice cartons

drink & juice boxes



what **NOT** to recycle

- **any plastic items other than plastic bottles & jugs** (deli and yogurt containers, plastic toys, cups, bags, wrap, etc.—if you wouldn't call it a bottle or a jug, **DON'T** put it in your recycling bin)
- **styrofoam** (cups, egg cartons, trays, etc.)
- **any glass items other than glass bottles & jars** (mirrors, lightbulbs, ceramics, glassware, etc.)
- **batteries** (see other side for more info)

how to recycle

Empty and rinse all containers. Place all together in **CLEAR** plastic bags, or an unlined rigid container labeled **BOTTLES & CANS**, or any bin with this **blue** decal.

Call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/recycle to get **free decals**, **recycling checklist magnets**, or other recycling info.



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frequently asked questions

What about other plastics—like yogurt containers, deli & take-out containers, or Styrofoam?

Do NOT place these in your recycling bin. Due to current market conditions, the only plastics accepted for recycling in NYC are bottles & jugs.



What about caps & lids?

Remove caps & lids. Place METAL caps & lids in your recycling bin; put plastic caps & lids in the garbage.

Can I recycle small appliances—my broken toaster oven, blow dryer, microwave?

Anything that is mostly metal can be recycled. If it's made of more than 50% metal, put it in your recycling bin. If it's mostly plastic, put it in the trash.



Do I need an appointment to discard appliances with CFC gas?



Yes, before discarding refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, or any other appliances containing CFC (Freon) gas, you must call 311 or schedule an appointment online (at www.nyc.gov/sanitation) for recovery of the ozone-depleting gas. For safety reasons, the law requires doors to be removed from refrigerators and freezers.

What happens to my recyclables? Does NYC really recycle this stuff?

Yes! The Department of Sanitation brings all the recyclables that residents set out for collection to contracted recycling processors, and carefully tracks the tonnages. But when people put the wrong stuff in their recycling bins, these items must be removed and discarded.

See *What Happens to Recyclables* at www.nyc.gov/recycle.



What about batteries?



- It is illegal to discard **rechargeable batteries**. All NYC stores that sell rechargeable batteries or products that contain rechargeable batteries (with the exception of small food stores) must accept up to ten batteries of the same shape and size as they sell.
- Place household **alkaline batteries** in your regular trash; they're not considered hazardous waste because they no longer contain mercury.
- **Do not put any kind of batteries in your recycling bin.**

What about electronics?

- **Businesses are required to recycle or donate certain electronic waste.**

There are no such laws for residents. See www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless/business.

- **Residents can bring certain electronics to e-recycling drop-off events run by Sanitation** and other organizations. For upcoming dates, see *What's New* at www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless. Otherwise, put electronics in your regular trash.



Does my workplace have to recycle?

Yes, all office buildings are required to recycle paper & cardboard. Restaurants and cafeterias are also required to recycle bottles, cans & foil. Commercial buildings make their own arrangements for collection with a private carter, not through the Department of Sanitation. Get complete info at www.nyc.gov/recycle.





NYCWasteLe\$\$ Reduce! Reuse! Recycle!

www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless

- **Bookmark this website** for complete information on **recycling and waste prevention** in New York City.
- **Sign up for the Environmental email newsletter.** Click on *Email Updates* at the top of any page on www.nyc.gov.



compost more!

www.nyccompost.org

The NYC Compost Project—funded by the Department of Sanitation's Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling—provides compost outreach and education to NYC residents and businesses through the city's botanical gardens and the Lower East Side Ecology Center.

Learn about these NYC Compost Project programs:

composting workshops • compost givebacks & discounted compost bin sales • "leave it on the lawn" education • master composter certificate course • nyc teacher "wormshops": worm composting for the classroom • landscaper training



Learn about these DSNY composting programs:

turning leaf & yard waste into compost • christmas tree composting • rikers island food waste composting facility • pilot projects & studies



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www.nyc.gov/nycstuffexchange

nyc
stuff
exchange

- **Find out where** to donate, buy, or sell gently used stuff in NYC.
- **Search** by your zip code, borough, or citywide.
- **Choose from 17 product categories** (clothing, books, computers, furniture, electronics, etc.)
- **Calendar of Events** shows donation drives, book fairs, rummage sales, and swap meets in NYC.

why reuse stuff?

The NYC Department of Sanitation collects about 72,000 tons (144 million pounds) of trash and recycling from NYC residents and institutions every week.

The goal of NYC Stuff Exchange is to help reduce the city's waste by encouraging New Yorkers to find a new home for gently used items that might otherwise be discarded as trash.



get listed!

Organizations and businesses that buy, sell, or accept donations of used stuff are invited to visit the website and get listed.

calendar of events

Tax-exempt organizations sponsoring rummage sales, donation drives, book fairs, or swap meets may submit events to the online calendar.



6/07

reuse more!
www.nyc.gov/nycstuffexchange



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apartment building recycling initiative



Residential building owners/landlords must notify tenants about recycling requirements, designate an accessible recycling area, and maintain signs explaining what and how to recycle.

Get free decals, posters, and other info from Sanitation.

improve recycling in your building! volunteer with the nyc apartment building recycling initiative

With your building management's permission, you'll assist the Department of Sanitation's Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling by educating tenants in your building about the three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Once you sign up, here's what will happen:

1. You attend a fun and informative training session.
2. Sanitation Outreach Coordinators visit your building to see how recycling is set up.
3. We provide you with **personalized suggestions to improve your building's recycling setup** and send materials to help every tenant in your building learn how to recycle to the max!
4. You have **direct access to a Sanitation recycling expert** for recycling pointers and support. In no time, you become a recycling expert yourself.
5. You also **receive regular updates with helpful information** on program changes and special recycling collection events so you can keep your building well informed.



See registration form on the other side.



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call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/recycle



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Volunteers with the NYC Apartment Building Recycling Initiative must:

- be **18 or older**
- live in a **residential building with 3 or more units**
- have **building management permission**
- **attend one training session**

**nyc apartment building recycling initiative
REGISTRATION FORM**

Fully complete the volunteer and building management sections below, and fax or mail to:



NYC Department of Sanitation
Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling
44 Beaver Street, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10004
Fax: (212) 514-7812

volunteer section (please print clearly)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Apartment #: _____ # of Units in Building: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Email: _____

I acknowledge that I have read and accept all the rules and guidelines of the Department of Sanitation's NYC Apartment Building Recycling Initiative (NYC ABRI). I understand that cooperation with building rules and policies and respecting the rights and privacy of other residents are required conditions for my activities as an NYC ABRI volunteer within the building. I understand my activities are limited to areas in and around the building normally available to all residents. I further understand that building management or I may cease participation in the program at any time with written or faxed notice to DSNY at the above address / fax number.

Volunteer Signature: _____

Date: _____

building management section (please print clearly)

Building Name / Street Address: _____

Building Management Company: _____

Building Management Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Building Manager Name: _____

Manager Daytime Phone: _____

Manager Email: _____

I acknowledge that I have read and accept all the rules and guidelines of the Department of Sanitation's NYC Apartment Building Recycling Initiative (NYC ABRI). I understand that the NYC ABRI volunteer will work with building staff and residents within the building to improve the amount and quality of recyclable materials the building sets out for collection. I attest that the activities of the NYC ABRI volunteer are covered by the building's general liability insurance coverage for residents. I understand that the NYC ABRI volunteer, I, or any building management staff may cease participation in the program at any time with written or faxed notice to DSNY at the above address / fax number.

Building Manager Signature: _____

Date: _____

With your help, it's all falling into place.

Paper & Cardboard



Use clear bags, bins labeled **Mixed Paper**, or any bin with this **green** decal.

Beverage Cartons, Bottles, Cans, Metal & Foil



Use clear bags, bins labeled **Bottles & Cans**, or any bin with this **blue** decal.

Empty and rinse all containers. Return 5c deposit bottles and cans to the store for refund.

Everything Else



Non-recyclables and trash



Don't litter.
City of New York
Department of Sanitation
407

For more info, call 311 or visit:
www.nyc.gov/sanitation
www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless
www.nyc.gov/nycstuffexchange

