

Sorting Your Waste: WHAT GOES WHERE?

Recycle

Remember to:

1. Empty and lightly rinse all containers.
2. Flatten cartons and boxes.
3. Secure shredded paper and textiles inside a clear plastic bag.



Cans & Cartons



Beverage cartons and boxes (e.g., juice, milk, cream)

Tin, aluminum, and steel cans and lids:

- Food and beverage cans (e.g., soda, tuna, soup, pet food)
- Aerosol cans (empty)

Paper & Cardboard



Cardboard, shoe boxes, cereal and cracker boxes (remove liners)

Catalogs, magazines, newspapers

Egg cartons

Gift wrap (no metallic/foil)

Mail, envelopes, advertisements (gloss OK, plastic windows OK)

Office paper (e.g., construction paper, printer paper)

Paper bags, shopping bags (remove handles)

Telephone books

Scrap Metals



Aluminum foil (clean)

Appliances, small metal (e.g., toaster, waffle iron, blender)

Metal lids and caps from glass bottles, keys

Paint cans (let paint dry out, then remove and place in garbage cart)

Metal pots and pans

Glass



Brown, clear, and green glass bottles and jars

Food and beverage containers (e.g., soda, wine, mayonnaise)

Plastics



All plastic items labeled 1-7 inside chasing arrows*

- Soda, water, mouthwash, and mustard containers
- Detergent bottles, flower pots, milk jugs, shampoo bottles, spray bottles, yogurt and margarine tubs
- PVC pipe, hard plastic toys, compact disc cases
- Medicine bottles, squeezable bottles (e.g., honey)
- Large reusable water bottles, juice jugs

*Return plastic bags to grocery store for recycling. Polystyrene foam goes in garbage cart.



Textiles

Clean cotton, linen, polyester, rayon and wool fabrics:

- Blankets, sheets, clothes

Garbage

These materials go to the landfill.



Home & Garden



Ceramics, drinking glasses

Incandescent light bulbs

Hangers

Garden hoses

Pillows, stuffed animals

Pumpkins, fruits and vegetables*

*May also compost these materials at home. Call (408) 918-4640 for FREE compost workshop and bin sale information.

Building/ Construction



Lumber, concrete and rocks (break into small pieces; cart may not exceed 60 lbs)

Carpet (cut into pieces; cart lid must close)

Windows, mirrors

Paper



Soiled paper and napkins

Padded envelopes, photo paper

Paper take-out containers, pizza boxes

Polystyrene Foam



Cups, plates and take-out containers

Egg cartons, meat trays

Foam packing materials, packing "peanuts" (tie securely in plastic bag)

Other



Ashes (tie securely inside two plastic bags once ashes have cooled)

Diapers, shoes

Pet waste and cat litter (tie securely in a plastic bag)

Other

Yard Trimmings



Branches (Pieces should be 5 feet or shorter and 6 inches or less in diameter for piles. If placed in cart, pieces should fit loosely inside and allow the lid to close.)

Prunings and clippings (e.g., flowers, grass, leaves, palm fronds)

Sod (remove as much soil as possible)

Christmas trees (Natural or flocked trees accepted. Remove stands, tinsel, and decorations. Cut trees into 5-foot pieces or shorter, and place them in the street.)

Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste



Hazardous materials and electronic waste do not belong in your garbage or recycling cart. Call (408) 299-7300 or visit www.hhw.org to schedule a FREE drop-off-appointment to properly dispose of the following items:

Automotive fluids

Batteries (all types)

Chemicals (e.g., solvents, household cleaners, degreasers, pesticides and fertilizers, pool/spa cleaners)

*Electronics (e.g., microwaves, answering machines, cellular and home phones, computers, radios, calculators, TVs and VCRs)

Medical Waste (e.g. syringes, hypodermic needles, sharps)

Miscellaneous: mercury thermometers, paint and wood stains, fluorescent light bulbs

Pressurized tanks (e.g., fire extinguishers, aerosol cans, helium, propane)

*Electronics are also accepted in the Large Item Collection service. See below for more information.

Large Item Collection



For a small fee, up to three large items —such as tires, sofas, refrigerators, TVs, and electronics— can be collected at curbside if you live in a single-family residence. A box of several small electronics counts as one item. Call your hauler to schedule the large item collection; see back cover for hauler phone numbers.

If you live in an apartment or condo, contact your property manager to arrange a special pick-up.

If you aren't sure whether something is recyclable or not, ask yourself:

Can it be REUSED?

NO

YES

Give it to a friend or charitable organization; have a garage sale.

Can it be RECYCLED at curbside? (Check the list at left)

NO

YES

Put it in your recycling container.

Does it require SPECIAL HANDLING?

YES

NO

Still not sure? →

For hazardous or large/heavy items, see sections above.

Visit www.recyclestuff.org or call the Recycling Hotline at (408) 924-5453 for help.

If it can't be reused or recycled — by us or someone else — put the item in the garbage cart.

By keeping garbage out of the recycling cart, you help make sure San José's recyclables are the highest quality possible for reuse.