



# Reduce Waste + Recycle More

FALL 2022

[www.tricountyrecycle.com](http://www.tricountyrecycle.com)

## inside **this** ISSUE

page 1

Where does the hazardous waste go?

page 2

What Can I Recycle?  
Where Can I Recycle?  
E-Waste Collection

Refrigerators

page 3

Common Contamination at the Curb

page 4

Compost Bins for Sale



## Where does the hazardous waste go?

The Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program collects over 200,000 pounds of hazardous waste annually, which is roughly four pounds per every person that lives in our three-county area. After each collection event, all the waste is transported to our contractor's facility in Washougal, Washington where it then advances to its final processing or disposal location, with most of those locations being here in the Northwest. Approximately 75% of what is collected at our events is recycled, while the other 25% is incinerated. From paint to pesticides, and everything in between, there is a means of disposal for the hazardous waste we collect.

About half of what is collected at events is unwanted paint. Through a partnership with PaintCare ([www.paintcare.org](http://www.paintcare.org)), a non-profit that strives to recycle unused paint, we send paint to a company called MetroPaint, located in Portland, who then processes it back into high quality paints that can be bought locally. Recently, here in the Gorge, PaintCare has partnered with Hood River Supply, Swell City Décor, Columbia Gorge ReStore, and Sherwin-Williams to collect and recycle latex and oil-based house paint, varnish and stain. These local retailers accept paint during businesses hours and are a great option to recycle paint throughout the year. In addition to recycling paint, MetroPaint also recycles most of the paint cans themselves, which are typically made of either tin/steel or #1 plastic. In our service area, empty paint cans are not hazardous waste and can be put in the garbage, just make sure to take the lid off before disposing of it.

Fluorescent lights, for their mercury and tin, and batteries (AA's and AAA's, etc.) are sent to a company in Arizona that recycles 100% of the ingredients using a "cold" process which is less environmentally impactful than other methods. Cell phones get recycled in Arizona too, and the TVs and computers we collect are recycled at a "hammer mill" named Universal Recycling Technologies in Clackamas, Oregon. We bulk together a variety of flammable materials (like old fuels and oil) and then ship it out-of-state where it typically is burned at a concrete kiln plant in North Dakota.

The remaining 25% of collected waste consists of material like dry pesticides that need to be incinerated. Unwanted medicines are incinerated too, which is much safer for the environment than flushing it down the toilet or throwing it away. Refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners get collected for safe removal of the harmful greenhouse gasses they contain, and then the units themselves get recycled. Recently, our program has sponsored affordable disposal of refrigerators, freezers, and AC units through Hood River Garbage and The Dalles Disposal for a ten-dollar fee. Finally, chemicals that are acids or bases are treated and then released into an approved wastewater treatment plant.


Our program is committed to safely removing hazardous waste from our community. For more information about our events, what hazardous waste we accept, alternative locations for paint disposal, and to use our Waste Wizard feature to learn about disposal of other household items, please visit:

[www.tricountyrecycle.com](http://www.tricountyrecycle.com)

## Waste Wizard:

Have you been wondering what you can and cannot recycle?  
Where to dispose of a certain item?  
If a material is hazardous waste or not?

Would you also like to sign up for hazardous waste collection event reminders? Look no further, our new Waste Wizard tool has the answers you've been looking for!

Just scan the QR code with your smartphone  or visit: [www.tricountyrecycle.com](http://www.tricountyrecycle.com)



# Where Can I Recycle?

## Curbside Recycling

All Hood River Garbage and The Dalles Disposal customers (in North Wasco County) have at least alternate week curbside recycling services. Call your hauler to find out more.

## Combined (mixed) Recyclables can be taken to:

### The Dalles Disposal Service

1317 W 1st St, The Dalles  
541-298-5149 • Mon-Sat 9am-5pm  
www.thedallesdisposal.com

### Hood River Garbage Service

3440 Guignard Drive, Hood River  
541-386-2272 • Mon-Sat 9am-5pm  
www.hoodrivergarbage.com

## Separated (sorted by type) Recyclables can be taken to:

**Dufur Lions Recycling Center**  
Dufur City Park  
Saturday Mornings

**"24/7" Self-Service Recycling Depot:**  
Mt. Hood

### Maupin Recycling Center

604 Water Ave., Maupin  
Cardboard, Commingled Recyclables,  
Glass, Yard Debris  
Wed & Sat 10 am- 2pm

### Sherman County Recycling Depots:

Grass Valley • Mon & Tues 1-3pm  
Moro • 2nd Fri & Sat 9am-4:30 pm  
Wasco • 3rd Fri & Sat 9am-4:30pm  
Rufus • 4th Fri & Sat 9am-4:30pm

## Sharps Disposal

- Hood River Transfer Station
- The Dalles Disposal
- Moro Medical Clinic

\* Free to households. Must be in approved container.

## Unwanted Refrigerators

~~\$35~~ Now Just **\$10** at:

- Hood River Garbage Service
  - The Dalles Disposal Service
- \* Fridges, Freezers + AC Units.

# What Can I Recycle?

Comingled recycling instructions are the same for households and businesses.

## COMINGLE

Put all of these items in the same container . . .

- Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, phone books
- Office paper, colored paper, note pads, letters, paper bags
- Boxes, such as tissue, shoe, cookie, cereal, and cracker style boxes with liners removed.
- Cardboard tubes
- #1 and #2 Plastic bottles with a neck rinsed and lids/caps removed (beverages, milk jugs, shampoo, detergent, cleaners)
- Aluminum and tin cans (rinsed)
- Clean aluminum foil
- Empty aerosol cans with caps removed



## SEPARATE

Put all of these items in the same container . . .

- Glass bottles and jars (rinse, put metal lids in blue bin). Put in separate bucket or container.
- Corrugated cardboard boxes (flattened). Put these next to or underneath your blue bins. No larger than 2' x 2' square.
- Motor oil (put in clear gallon milk jug with a lid and place next to your recycling).



## But What About . . .

- Plastic shopping bags and bread sacks do not go in your blue bins. Please take them back to the grocery store for recycling.
- Confidential paper. Shredding service (priced by the box) offered at Hood River Garbage and The Dalles Disposal. Call for details.
- Make compost at home. Place fruit and vegetable scraps, paper towels and napkins, lawn clippings and leaves in a compost bin, where they will break down.



More composting info at:  
[www.tricountyrecycle.com](http://www.tricountyrecycle.com)

## NO!

- X Clear "Clamshell" Containers
- X Flex Packaging
- X Shredded Paper
- X Plastic Bags
- X Frozen Boxes
- X Styrofoam
- X Milk Cartons
- X Juice Boxes



When in doubt, find out! *Let us help you find out!* [www.tricountyrecycle.com](http://www.tricountyrecycle.com)

## E-Cycle program expansion



The Oregon Electronics Recycling Program (Oregon E-Cycles) now takes computer peripherals (key boards and mice) plus printers, in addition to televisions, laptops, computer monitors and tower, at no cost.

## E-Waste collection sites

**The Dalles Disposal Service**  
1317 W 1st Street, The Dalles  
541-298-5149 • Mon-Sat 9am-5pm  
**Hood River Garbage Service**  
3440 Guignard Drive, Hood River  
541-386-2272 • Mon-Sat 9am-5pm  
**Sherman County Transfer Station**  
on Welk Rd., near Biggs Junction  
2nd, 4th Sat 10am-2pm

# Common Contamination at the Curb:

## If it can't go in the cart, where should it go?

Contamination at the curb? What's the big deal? **Recycling works best when done properly.** Let's all do our part to keep the recycle stream free of contamination to ensure an efficient recycling system. Check out the list of common contaminants below and how to dispose of them properly.



CONTAMINANT	Why not at the curb?	Where should it go?
<b>Plastic Bags</b> 	Plastic bags clog machinery at the sorting facility making it necessary to be collected elsewhere.	The following stores have bins for recycling plastic bags: <b>Safeway- The Dalles</b> <b>Safeway- Hood River</b>
<b>Styrofoam</b> 	Styrofoam breaks into tiny pieces when compacted in the recycle truck. No recycling facility at this time (but maybe in the future.) Too expensive to transport.	<b>Garbage-</b> Styrofoam that has touched food (cups, plates, egg cartons, etc.) must go in the garbage. Packing peanuts may go to local shipping business (as allowed.)
<b>Plastic Clamshells</b> 	There are no markets now for this low grade plastic at its end of life phase. This applies to all clamshells regardless of the number on the bottom.	<b>Garbage</b>
<b>Plastic Cups &amp; Tubs</b> 	No recycling markets for cups or tubs exist right now. Only put plastic bottles (#1's and #2's) into the Recycling Bin.	<b>Garbage</b>
<b>Milk Cartons &amp; Juice Boxes</b> 	These containers are lined with wax, plastic or synthetic resin to repel moisture. They do not break down in the pulp mill.	<b>Garbage</b>
<b>Large Plastic Items</b> 	No recycling markets for this low grade plastic exist right now. Examples: toys, games, furniture. Only put plastic bottles (#1's and #2's) into the Blue Recycling Bin.	<b>Garbage</b>
<b>Batteries</b> 	Many batteries (especially Lithium batteries) can be dangerous if damaged.	<b>The Dalles Disposal or Hood River Garbage</b> at any time and to any <b>Hazardous Waste Event:</b> Visit: <a href="http://www.tricountyrecycle.com">www.tricountyrecycle.com</a> for an Event Schedule or call: (541)-506-2529
<b>Clothing</b> 	Clothing and fabric are not part of the curbside recycling program.	Visit <a href="http://www.tricountyrecycle.com">www.tricountyrecycle.com</a> to use the <b>Waste Wizard</b> or <b>CLICK "Managing My Materials"</b> , then <b>CLICK "Reuse."</b>
<b>Pet Food Bags</b> 	These bags are lined with plastic. Nearly impossible to separate the plastic liner from the exterior paper fibers for recycling	<b>Garbage</b>
<b>Napkins &amp; Paper Towels</b> 	Used napkins and paper towels are considered contaminated because of food residue.	<b>Put In Your Home Compost System</b> Not allowed in curbside organics/yard debris cart.
<b>Food Residue</b> 	Food residue inside containers contaminates commingled recycling (e.g. yogurt spilling onto paper) and leads to mold and germs. Always rinse/wipe-out containers so no food gets onto other recyclables.	<b>Rinse &amp; Wipe Clean Then Put In Recycling Cart</b> If rinsing is not possible, save the container until it can be rinsed/wiped and then recycled.



## Earth Machine Compost Bins



AVAILABLE AT:

**Hood River Garbage**  
3440 Guignard Dr., Hood River

**The Dalles Disposal**  
1317 W First St., The Dalles

**Tygh Valley General Store**  
57723 Tygh Valley Rd., Tygh Valley

**Mid-Columbia Producers**  
**Wasco Farm Store**  
820 Hwy 206, Wasco

**THANK YOU Community!**  
Your tax deductible donations enabled the reuse of \$1,000,000 of usable goods in 2021!

Re-think • Re-use • Re-store  
**Bring & Buy at GRC 541-387-4387**

www.rebuildit.org • 995 Tucker Rd., Hood River

## RECYCLE YOUR PAINT

Recycle your paint, stain, and varnish— find a year-round site at [paintcare.org](http://paintcare.org)

**PaintCare**  
RECYCLING MADE EASY

**Columbia Gorge Habitat for Humanity**

Tues - Sat  
10 am - 3 pm  
1001 W. 6th St.,  
The Dalles

**ReStore**  
541-296-4486

Small steps have big impacts

Recycling 101 Certificate:  
**GO BEYOND THE BASICS**

Enroll today:  
[tiny.cc/recycling-101](http://tiny.cc/recycling-101)

**AOR** ASSOCIATION of OREGON RECYCLERS  
Oregon State University

## Recycle Clean, Dry Plastic Bags & Film Packaging

Look for this tag when you see plastic wrap like these:



**Air Pillows**



**Grocery & Retail Bags**  
labeled #2 (HDPE) or #4 (LLDPE)

**Tip:** Store in plastic bag until next trip to the store



**Case Wrap**



**Newspaper Bags**



**Bread Bags**  
(with crumbs shaken out)



**Produce Bags**



**Food Storage Bags**



**Napkin, Paper Towel, Bathroom Tissue, and Diaper Wrap Packaging**

**"Do Not Put In Recycling - Return to Supermarket"**