

West Norriton Township Recycling Guide

Why recycle? Most of us know it is important to recycle, and many of us do. Knowing why we ought to be recycling helps make us better informed consumers. The benefits are many, and some of these are listed below.

But first a bit about something called the Circular Economy and where you fit into it. Essentially, when products are produced, ideally they are designed to last longer and are made from, or mostly from, recycled materials. Consumers buy recycled products and reuse or use as long as possible and then recycle them to be turned back into other products - this is where you come in.

So, other than simply creating new products from recycled materials, what are the reasons we should recycle?

1. Conserves natural resources. When we recycle, we are protecting limited natural resources, such as trees. Deforestation for the production of paper products contributes to climate change (because forests absorb vast amounts of climate-warming carbon from the atmosphere), destruction of ecosystems and loss of pristine natural beauty.
2. Reduces the amount of waste that gets deposited in landfills. Less waste means less landfill and less chance for water contamination.
3. Recycling saves energy. Companies that use recycled materials save energy by using less raw materials.
4. Cleaner towns and cities. We help beautify our community by properly depositing instead of littering.
5. Creates more jobs. More recycling means more recycling plants being built, creating many more jobs compared with landfill waste management.
6. Reduces carbon emissions and fossil fuel production. Plastics require extraction of fossil fuels, which are used in their manufacture. Also, when waste is burned instead of being recycled, it produces dangerous amounts of pollution and greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.
7. Protects our health as well as that of fragile ecosystems. For instance, improperly disposed of plastics can make their way into streams, rivers and oceans, ultimately becoming part of the food chain and impacting the health of marine life as well as our own.

The bottom line, as stewards of the environment that we rely upon and that relies upon us, recycling helps us develop sustainable practices that have many benefits for generations to come and for the planet. With these things in mind, please place the attached guide to recycling in a handy spot (such as your refrigerator) as a reference when disposing of your waste.

- **What is recyclable?**

Check with your trash company, but generally the following can be recycled:

- Paper, including newspapers and junk mail flyers and cardboard
- Aluminum and Steel Cans - cans can be crushed or not
- Glass, most companies will take, but you need to check
- Plastic, it's complicated, but jars, bottles, jugs, and tubs. Clean, dry and with cap on.
- Don't bag them.

- No wax, or plastic cups, no polystyrene, no foam/plastic, no plastic or film bags

- Everything that contained a product must be clean, rinsed out. Pizza boxes? Maybe, but must be free of grease. In single stream recycling, dirty items or ones that they won't take, slow down the process and may break machinery. Don't "wishcycle:" Wish-cycling is the practice of recycling items that cannot be recycled. It stems from the best intentions. You wish or hope that something you've bought or use regularly can be recycled. Instead, your good intentions end up costing recycling companies more time and money.

- **Some solutions for items that local companies won't take:**

- Plastic film: plastic bags, plastic film covering your delivered newspaper, produce bags are taken by many grocery stores.
Link to collection locations: <https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/recycling-bags-and-wraps/find-drop-off-location/>

- Accepts many items trash companies won't such as #6 rigid and Styrofoam:
Recycling Services, Inc. - A Recycling and Alternative Energy Center
Reopens June 12
<http://www.recyclingservicesinc.org/about.html>

- Office paper and shredding:
<https://rapidrecycling.com/>

- Many items, such as Brita filters, coffee bags and pods, and disposable razors - some services for individuals - some community based.
<https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/>

- **Other solutions:**

- Try to reuse plastic bags, zip-lock bags or plastic utensils from take out. Use at least once or in the case of take-out utensens, donate to soup kitchen for example.

 - Buy recycled products such as bottles, toilet paper, tissues and garbage bags. Building demand will make recycling more profitable and successful.

 - West Norriton battery recycling - pending
-

RECYCLE

Thank you for recycling these **EMPTY** and **CLEAN** items:

Cans



Aluminum and Steel Cans
empty and rinse

Cartons



Food and Beverage Cartons
empty and replace cap

Glass



Bottles and Jars
empty and rinse

Paper



Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, and Flattened Cardboard

Plastic Containers



Kitchen, Laundry, Bath: Bottles and Containers
empty and replace cap

NO!



Do Not Bag Recyclables
No Garbage



No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap
(return to retail)



No Food or Liquid
(empty all containers)



No Clothing or Linens
(use donation programs)



No Tangles
(no hoses, wires, chains, or electronics)

Questions? Contact Montgomery County Recycling at 610-278-3618 or Recycling@Montcopa.org