



**CITY OF CLEVELAND**  
Mayor Justin M. Bibb



# THE CITY OF CLEVELAND'S RECYCLING PROGRAM

## List of Acceptable Materials



### PLASTIC BOTTLES, JUGS, TUBS & DISPOSABLE CUPS

- **Bottles & Jugs:** The top of the container must be smaller than the base, usually with a screw on lid.
- **Tubs:** Butter tubs, yogurt containers, cottage cheese, sour cream, chip dip, and whip topping containers; single serve containers of fruit, pudding and Jello.
- **Cups:** Disposable plastic cups (not accepted in Central Kentucky)

**TO RECYCLE:** Empty and rinse the containers. Lightly flatten water bottles and soda bottles. Do not stack tubs. Reattach lids for bottles, jugs, tubs and cups. Straws and stoppers should be thrown in the trash.



### PAPER, CARDBOARD, & CUPS

- Junk mail, newspapers, magazines, telephone books, paperback books, paper bags, cereal and cracker boxes, pizza boxes, cardboard boxes, disposable paper cups (paper cups are not accepted in Central Kentucky)
- **Helpful hint:** If the paper product tears and breaks down in water it is acceptable.

**TO RECYCLE:** Pizza boxes must be free of food and excessive grease. Cardboard boxes must be flattened and placed inside the cart or stacked neatly beside the cart. Plastic lids from paper cups should be removed and thrown in the trash.



### METAL CANS & CUPS

- Non-hazardous and non-flammable material only. No scrap metals.

**TO RECYCLE:** Empty and rinse containers. Lids that are attached should be pushed inside cans. Loose pull top lids may be placed in recycling bins.



### GLASS

- Any color of glass bottles and jars once used for food and drink.
- Mirrors, window glass, and drinking glasses are not acceptable.

**TO RECYCLE:** Empty and rinse containers. Metal lids should be placed loose in recycling bins. Plastic lids should be removed and thrown in the trash.



### CARTONS

- Milk, juice, broth, juice boxes

**TO RECYCLE:** Empty and rinse cartons. Remove lids and straws and throw in the trash.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What does it mean to “opt-in”?

The new program works like a **free** subscription service for recycling at your home. Opting in is the way that you enroll for that service. This is a one-time action. You **will not** have to renew it.

### Do I have to pay a fee for recycling?

There is no separate “recycling fee”. The \$8.75 fee that residents pay covers a portion of all waste management activities in Cleveland, including trash and bulk materials pickup.

### I already recycle, do I have to change what I’m doing?

Yes. With a new vendor, what is acceptable for recycling has changed. Our new program is able to recycle many more items. Please refer to the recycling guide with the list of materials of what can be recycled. What we can recycle in Cleveland is listed on the “accepted items” sticker provided for the top of your cart.

### What’s not recyclable?

Anything not listed as an acceptable item to place in the blue recycling cart, should not be placed in the blue recycling cart. In most cases, it can be put in the black trash cart. Check the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District’s [CuyahogaRecycles.org](http://CuyahogaRecycles.org) webpage for alternative recycling programs, hazardous materials disposal, and drop off locations.

### Can I put plastic bags of recyclables in the blue cart?

No. Plastic bags cannot be put in mixed recyclables. If you use a plastic bag collect recyclables in the house, dump them out of the bag into the blue recycling cart. The empty bag can be put in the trash cart. Check local retail stores for recycling programs for grocery bags and other thin film plastic bags.

### Will I get cited for not recycling properly?

The City maintains the right to issue citations for flagrant violations of the rules (ex. yard waste, building materials, trash bags, or hoses in recycling carts). Grossly contaminated recycling carts will be emptied into the trash. Repeated flagrant violations can result in the cart being taken away.

### How do I replace a damaged cart?

If you need to replace a damaged cart, please call **216.664.3711** or **3-1-1**.

### If I didn’t opt-in, can I still recycle at home?

If a household has not opted-in to the recycling program, the City will remove the recycling bin from that location.

### Can I opt-in now?

Residents will be able to opt-in at regular intervals during the year. Dates will be announced. Please call **216.664.3030** for more information.

### I don’t have a blue cart. Where can I take my recyclables?

There are currently two drop off locations for residential recycling:

- **East Side** 5600 Carnegie Avenue (Monday-Saturday, 9am-3pm)
- **West Side** 3727 Ridge Road (Monday-Saturday, 9am-3pm)

For more information on the City of Cleveland’s waste collection and the updated recycling program, visit [www.sustainablecleveland.org/recycling](http://www.sustainablecleveland.org/recycling)