

Make everyday Earth Day - Green your Choices - Save Resources - Be Happy



## America Recycles Day is Nov. 15

Please take this opportunity to share the list (provided below) of truly recyclable items with your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. Contamination continues to be a problem and market values for many items are at record lows, with recyclers paying to have processors take some of them! These materials are resources that don't belong in the landfill and every day companies are investing in better technology to recover them and use them in new products. Look for recycled content when you shop and if you don't see it, ask the store manager or company to add it.

[Visit Our Website](#)

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## Will County Releases Informational Flyer



# RECYCLING GUIDELINES

# YES!



## METAL

Steel & Aluminum Containers and Foil



## PAPER

Cardboard (flattened),  
Office Paper, Newspaper, Magazines

**Clean & Empty**  
Replace lids & caps



## CARTONS



## GLASS

Containers: Bottles & Jars Only



## PLASTIC

Containers: Bottles, Tubs, Jugs,  
and Jars Only

# NO!



**No Plastic Bags**  
**No Plastic Wrap**  
(return clean to retailer)



**No Big Items** (Electronics, Wood,  
Propane Tanks, Scrap Metal or Styrofoam –  
check [willcountygreen.com](http://willcountygreen.com) for other options)



**No Tanglers** (Hangers, Hoses,  
Wire, Cords, Ropes or Chains)



**No Clothing**  
Textiles or Shoes (donate)



**No Food, Liquid, Diapers,  
Batteries or Needles**



**No "to-go"**  
food containers.

**Put material in loose**  
**- Not in Bags**

These Guidelines represent the common items accepted in most recycling programs in Illinois. For more detailed information, please visit Will County's website.



[willcountygreen.com](http://willcountygreen.com)

The will power to rethink, renew, reduce and recycle.

## Tips and Alternative Drop-Off Info



### Pre-Cycle to Reduce Waste

	<p>When shopping, try to “Pre-Cycle.” <b>Match the packaging of items you buy</b> with what is <b>currently recyclable</b>. Think about planning meals and buying in bulk when possible. Avoid single-use packaging, such as TV dinners, lunch in trays, K-Cups, and even water bottles.</p> <p>In the spirit of less waste, bring a <b>refillable water bottle</b> wherever you go, shop resale, start a backyard compost pile, and plant a garden to supplement you’re packaged foods. Lastly, consider asking an old school butcher to skip the polystyrene and package your meat in paper.</p>
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### Pack a Waste-Free Lunch:

	<p>A few ideas to make you or your child’s lunch waste-free!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_ Refillable Water Bottle</li> <li>_ Ceramic Mug / Thermos</li> <li>_ Steel or Bamboo Straw</li> <li>_ Cloth Napkin</li> <li>_ Reusable Lunch Box or Bag</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_ Durable, Washable Utensils</li> <li>_ Durable Bowls with Lids</li> <li>_ Fruit in its own skin (Bananas, Apples, Oranges, Clementine)</li> </ul>
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### Support Recycling by Buying Recycled Content Items throughout the entire year

	<p><b>America Recycles Day - Buy Recycled Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newspaper or Cereal box or Notebooks</li> <li>• Any Steel or Aluminum can</li> <li>• Beverages in Glass bottles</li> <li>• Pens and Pencils made from Recycled Plastic</li> </ul>	<p>Purchase Recycled Content Supplies for Home, School, Places of Work and Worship</p>
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### Year round Electronic Recycling Drop-Off Options (2 TV limit and ID required):

	<p>Lockport – Public Works 17112 Prime Blvd. Lockport Tues. &amp; Friday 6am-11am Only</p>	<p>Frankfort Township 11000 W. Lincoln Hwy. Frankfort 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, 5pm-7pm</p>	<p>New Lenox Township 1100 S. Cedar Rd. New Lenox 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, 5pm-7pm</p>	<p>Wilmington City Hall 1165 S. Water St. Wilmington 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, 5pm-7pm</p>
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Additional locations in Channahon and Peotone. If you are unable to bring electronic items to our drop-off sites, please call A-Team Recyclers for a fee of \$40 per TV and up to 7 more non-TV electronics at no additional fee. 815-630-4308

### Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Options:

	<p>Regional Site 180 Fort Hill Dr. Naperville Sat. &amp; Sunday 9am-2pm Only</p>	<p>Regional Site 1150 North Branch St. Chicago Tuesday 7am-Noon Thursday 2pm-7pm</p>	<p>Will County offers One-Day Events in the Spring and the Fall</p>	<p>Latex Paint is not considered Hazardous. It can be solidified with kitty litter or, for a fee, recycled at Ace Hardware stores.</p>
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Find more events and recycling opportunities at [www.willcountygreen.com](http://www.willcountygreen.com); become a fan on Facebook or follow us on Instagram or Twitter for timely updates.

## YES to Caps on Plastic Bottles and Jugs

Please put caps back on empty plastic bottles and jugs unless you are participating in a special caps only collection (such as Lewis University is doing to make a plastic picnic table). When caps are tossed into carts separately they fall through the sorting equipment and get swept into the dumpster to go to the landfill. They are usually a different resin type than the bottle but are separated appropriately at their next stop, where the plastic bottle bale is broken, cut and washed.



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## What happened to bagging shredded paper?

As automation has increased, the paper bags of shredded paper have been breaking and this means little to no shredded paper makes it to the baling portion of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). The best advice, only shred at home if you truly fear identity theft of your social security, credit card or bank numbers.

Keep in mind that these numbers are seldom listed on documents to prevent theft. Also, most credit card theft occurs at the point of purchase, not at your curb. **If you must shred, wait for a shredding event or take items to retailers that will shred them for a fee.** When a truck load of shredded paper is created, it is baled and sent to a paper mill directly, never going through the typical MRF that processes traditional papers, bottles and cans.



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## Don't Use Plastic Bags for Recyclables

Plastic bags can be recycled but NOT curbside and not in County traditional drop-off sites. When a MRF receives plastic bags they become tangled in the equipment, causing numerous shut downs and labor intensive removal. Recycling creates jobs but including items that are not recyclable or not able to be processed causes recycling to become more costly than landfilling, resulting in program failures and a net loss of both jobs and our natural resources.



Recycle Right! Return plastic bags to retail outlets to be recovered in a clean, single stream. Retailers usually bale them on-site and they never go to a MRF. They become plastic lumber, picnic benches and more, with long, graffiti resistant lives! BONUS: They also accept bread bags, plastic produce bags, toilet paper plastic wrap and similar bags!

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## No Wires, Cords, Chains in the Cart

We are happy to accept wires and cords at the Electronic recycling drop-off locations but they tangle the equipment at the MRF and usually don't make it to the next recycling step. Please tell friends and family that not everything that is recyclable can be placed in curbside carts and public traditional recycling dumpsters. Scrap metal yards accept these items and Will County offers at least one annual collection event for scrap metal. (Reusable hangers can be donated to thrift stores.)



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## Donate Clothing (and toys, furniture, etc)

Across the state of Illinois MRFs are telling us they have people placing clothing in their recycling carts. There seems to be confusion that these items will get reused or recycled this way but they will only go to the landfill in a longer, more expensive manner. PLEASE, donate your clothes to a local thrift store or organization. Will County offers an annual "Textile Collection Event" where we accept clothes and shoes in any condition. These really do get reused (and recycled if not usable). See you in May!



## CLOSE THE LOOP - BUY RECYCLED

Will County often gives away pencils made from jeans and chip clips made from recycled plastic bottles. Everyday there are items we can purchase made from recycled items including printer paper, shoes, backpacks, file folders, pens, clipboards, and much more! Ask stores and suppliers for recycled content options! This keeps recycling strong while also saving resources and conserving energy!



Will County | Land Use | Resource Recovery & Energy  
815-727-8834 | [info@willcountygreen.com](mailto:info@willcountygreen.com) | [www.WillCountyGreen.com](http://www.WillCountyGreen.com)

STAY CONNECTED:

