

# Know Before You THROW!

Do you know which materials go in your blue recycling bin?



## August News from Howard County Recycling



School, work, vacation or home...here are tips every household can use to be more green.

**Rethink how you purchase school supplies and reuse what you can from last year.** It is pretty awesome to start the school year off with all new stuff, such as clothing, binders, folders, pens and pencils, but do you really need to? All that new stuff uses the earth's resources: trees, water, energy, etc.

**Don't brown bag it.** Invest in a lunchbox, reusable plastic containers, cloth napkins and a thermos. Avoid buying individually packaged foods – that adds up to a lot of trash and is usually more expensive.

**Ditch disposable water bottles.** Save the planet and save money by using filtered tap water and stainless steel insulated sports water bottles. They keep the water cooler for longer.

**Reduce your greenhouse gas emissions.** Ride the bus when possible to lessen individual vehicle emissions. If the bus is not an option, set up a carpool with neighbors or arrange for a chaperoned "walkpool". You'll save gas and get some exercise in the process!

**Recycle as much as you can.** Parents set the example. Are you and your family recycling the right items? [Play our game](#) to see how you're doing and [brush up on your skills](#).

**Cut down on electricity.** Turn off lights and electronics when not in use and be sure to unplug cell phone, tablet and laptop chargers. These sound obvious, but you might not be doing them everytime. There are also Smart Power Strips available that stop drawing electricity from appliances that are turned off. Every little bit helps!

## Printable items to help your household

**Recycle**  
A Guide for  
Howard County  
Residents

Series of Environmental Services  
675 CAMPUS GARDEN DRIVE, SUITE 314  
COLUMBIA, MD 21046  
410-313-6444  
[www.howardcountyrecycles.org](http://www.howardcountyrecycles.org)

**Know Before You Throw** *Keep it Loose Lose the Bag!*

Material must be out before 8 a.m. on collection day

**Accepted**

- Aluminum & Steel Cans: Lids can be recycled
- Cardboard Boxes & Corrugated Fiberboard
- Glass Bottles & Jars: Lids can be recycled
- Paper, Newspapers, Magazines & Books: Keep paper dry
- Plastic Bottles, Tubs, Jugs & Jars: Lids only

**Not Accepted**

- No Trash or Yard Ties
- No Plastic Bags or Plastic Bags in any other containers
- No Tangles
- No Food or Liquid
- No Styrofoam
- No Textiles

410-313-6444 [help@HowardCountyRecycles.org](http://help@HowardCountyRecycles.org) [KnowBeforeYouThrow.org](http://KnowBeforeYouThrow.org)

**Recycling Guide for County Collections**

YES	NO
Paper: office paper, newspapers, mail, milk cartons	Paper: disposable plates & cups, ice cream containers, wax paper
Plastic bottles, containers and labels (e.g., detergent)	Plastic packaging: Styrofoam™ containers, plant pots
Metal: aluminum and steel cans, empty aerosol cans	Metal: large metal, wire and hinges
Clean bottles and jars	Drums, large glass, mirrors
Clean glass bottles and jars	Cardboard food boxes and cardboard boxes
Cardboard: clean and flattened	

For a detailed list of accepted items, visit [www.howardcountyrecycles.org](http://www.howardcountyrecycles.org). Accepted items can be placed in your recycling bin before 8 a.m. on collection day. In some cases, items will not be collected. Please see our website for a list of items which cannot be recycled.

Not sure what to do with an item? [Click here](#)

# What "metal" can be recycled in your blue bin?

We can only accept metal cans in your curbside recycling. Scrap metal items can be taken to the Alpha Ridge Landfill for recycling.



## YES (Clean. Empty. Dry)

- aluminum, steel & tin cans (even pet food!)
- EMPTY aerosol cans

## NO

- NEW! aluminum foil/bakeware\*
- propane cylinders\*
- pots, pans or other scrap metal\*
- motor oil or other automotive fluid cans\*
- metal hangers\*

\* these items can be recycled at [the Alpha Ridge Landfill](#).

You can still recycle paper, glass bottles/jars, cardboard and plastic bottles/containers.

[Learn more.](#)



Please remember: collection crews will not collect your recycling if it's in plastic bags or if they see any type of plastic bags/film in your recycling.

Why? Plastic bags jam equipment, reduce the quality of recyclable items and create hazards for the sorting staff.

[More](#)

**Howard County Recycling**  
9801 Broken Land Parkway  
Columbia, MD 21046  
Open Monday–Friday, 8am to 5pm

**Alpha Ridge Landfill**  
2350 Marriottsville Road  
Marriottsville, MD 21104  
Open Monday–Saturday, 8am to 4pm

(410) 313-6444 [help@HowardCountyRecycles.org](mailto:help@HowardCountyRecycles.org)

[HowardCountyRecycles.org](http://HowardCountyRecycles.org)

