

Recycling In Oberlin

Residential Services

The City of Oberlin's curbside source-separated recycling program is celebrating its eleventh year of providing free recycling collection services to Oberlin residents. This program is funded with a grant from the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District and matching local funds from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund.

The City of Oberlin recycling program uses 5 gallon black buckets labeled with the City's recycling logo or your own durable container clearly identified with the City's recycling logo for collection services. These containers are available for free pick-up in the lobby of the municipal building at 69 South Main St. Recycling logo stickers are available for free pick-up at 85 South Main St. Recycling brochures are available at both 69 South Main St. and 85 South Main St. or by calling the Public Works Department at 775-7218. Residents may place unlimited amounts of properly prepared recyclable materials at the curb for collection.

Blue bags are not permitted

The City of Oberlin collects five categories of materials at curbside for recycling. These are aluminum and steel cans, plastics #1 (PET) and #2 (HDPE), glass containers, mixed paper and corrugated cardboard. The City's 5 gallon buckets should be used to sort cans, plastics and glass. The following rules apply:

General Guidelines: Please use the City's recycling containers (1) for metal cans, (1) for plastics and (1) for glass. Marked containers make it easy for staff to identify and empty recyclable materials into the truck. Please place recycling materials by 6:00 a.m. separately on your curb lawn from refuse containers/bags. Recycling collection is the same day as regularly scheduled refuse collection.

Materials Guidelines

Aluminum and Steel Cans: Food and beverage containers, primarily. Please rinse cans and flatten if possible. Do not put paint cans, aerosol cans, aluminum foil or other types of metal in your recycling container.

Glass Containers: Remove lids and rinse glass jars and bottles. Metal lids can be recycled with cans (see above). Brown, green and clear glass can all be recycled together. Do not put light bulbs, mirrors, window glass or kitchenware with your glass recycling.

Plastics: Rinsed plastic #1 and #2 only. Plastics are labeled with the 3-arrow recycling logo with a number inside. We can only collect plastics labeled #1 (PET) or #2 (HDPE). Remove lids, rinse containers and flatten where possible. We cannot accept plastic bags even if they are labeled #1 or #2. Do not recycle motor oil, anti-freeze, pesticide or similar containers. Chemicals in these products contaminate the plastic in the recovery process.

Mixed paper: Items accepted: catalogs, newspaper, magazines, paper board, junk mail, office-computer-school paper and phone books. Must be bundled or placed in brown paper bags or plastic bags. Do not put paper in recycling buckets. Wet paper will not be picked up.

Corrugated Cardboard: Corrugated cardboard has a ribbed section sandwiched between two layers of paper. We will only collect brown or white corrugated cardboard. Corrugated boxes must be flattened. It is not necessary to remove packing tape or staples. Do not recycle waxed cardboard, glossy cardboard or paperboard such as cereal boxes or shoe boxes. Please do not set corrugated cardboard out for collection in wet weather. Wet cardboard will not be picked up. Please call to schedule a pick up for large amounts of cardboard. Boxes must be flattened and tied securely into manageable bundles.

Other Recycling Tips

Office Paper, Magazines, Newspaper: These materials can be dropped off at any of the Paper Retriever dumpsters located at the Oberlin Public Schools. Please review the list of acceptable materials on the collection box.

Used Tires: Tire recycling is occasionally scheduled at the New Russia Township Service Garage, on Butternut Ridge Rd. Please call the Township for specific dates and times. Throughout the year, you may take tires to municipal service garages in Elyria, Lorain, and North Ridgeville, and Grafton Township Hall. Please call ahead.

Household Hazardous Waste: The Lorain County Solid Waste Management District sponsors an annual Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Day usually in late April or early May. Call LCSWMD at 329-5440 for specific dates and times. The following types of materials are accepted: corrosives (acids, batteries, etc.), flammables (gasoline, paint, propane, etc.), reactives (pesticides, chlorine, etc.), and toxics (poisons, mercury, antifreeze, etc.). Please do not bring ammunition, medical waste, tires, or appliances. You may also call 1-800-HHW-LINE (1-800-449-5463) with questions.

Packing Peanuts: Recycle packing peanuts at The UPS Store, 55 South Main St, 774-7447; or call 1-800-828-2214 for other stores. For polystyrene blocks in large quantities, contact the Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers at 1-800-944-8448.

Household Batteries: May be dropped off for recycling at City Hall. Those include AA, AAA, C, D, 9V, watch batteries and rechargeable batteries.

Junk Mail: 2.1% of municipal solid waste is junk mail, over 2 million tons a year. To reduce your junk mail, write to: Direct Marketing Association's Mail Preference Service, a free service established in 1971 to have your name removed from most national mailing lists for five years. Send your name and address to: MPS, c/o DMA, PO Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008.