

Manalapan Township Recycling Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Single Stream Recycling? “Single stream” is a system that takes the two recycling “streams” - newspaper and commingled containers – and puts them together in one bin. In other words, all the items that are acceptable for recycling can now be put together in one bin that you place at the curb on your assigned pickup day.

These commingled materials will then be hauled to a processing plant specifically designed to mechanically separate the mixed materials so they may be sold (the town gets part of the profit) and re-processed.

What else is new about Manalapan’s recycling program? Recycling will now be picked up every other Wednesday. If you have a Monday or Thursday garbage pickup, your first recycling pick up will be April 7th. If you have Tuesday or Friday garbage pickup, your first recycling pick up will be April 14th. It is no longer necessary to tie up your newspaper as long as they are in a container, which will prevent them from getting blown around your street.

Why Single Stream Recycling? Manalapan chose to implement a single stream recycling program to make it easier for you to recycle. Using just one collection bin for all your recyclable items increases the ease and convenience of recycling so that more people participate and more resources are saved. Single stream recycling offers more efficient collection for the haulers who normally have to run two recycling routes to collect the two streams. This reduction in the number of trucks on the road leads to a lower cost of recycling and reduces pollution caused by collection vehicles.

Manalapan has to pay by the ton for trash disposal at the landfill. Increased recycling by residents will decrease the amount of trash we send to the landfill and thereby reduce the cost of garbage disposal for the town. Please see the town recycling guidelines for information about what can be recycled in Manalapan’s curbside collection program.

How are the materials separated?

Automated sorting equipment separates the comingled materials at the recycling facility. Quality control personnel are on duty as well to monitor the process.

Doesn't single stream lower the value of the materials, and won't there be a lot of contamination?

One of the concerns associated with single-stream recycling is that one bin tends to encourage people to suddenly put EVERYTHING that seems recyclable in it. That's why we need YOU to help demonstrate that a community full of educated, conscientious recyclers can make single stream recycling a success. We need you to follow the town's recycling guidelines which explain what can be placed in your curbside collection bin.

Why should I recycle?

Recycling reduces the emissions of many greenhouse gases and water pollutants, saves energy, supplies valuable raw materials to industry, creates jobs, stimulates the development of greener technologies, generates less solid waste, conserves resources for future generations, and reduces the need for new landfills and combustors. Manalapan is proud of the active role it takes in helping the environment. Now it is easier than ever to recycle at your curb and you can use our centrally-located Recycling Drop-Off Center (207 Route 522) to recycle many items that you cannot place at the curb.

By law, citizens are required to recycle and we absolutely encourage every family to recognize the importance of this civic responsibility. Not only does recycling benefit our environment, but it provides additional funds for Manalapan thereby helping to reduce your taxes.

What items can I recycle?

- For curbside collection, please refer to the recycling guidelines
- Manalapan also has a recycling drop off center located at 270 Route 522 which accepts additional items including car batteries, electronics, computers, scrap metal, large appliances, and clothing
- Plastic bags can be recycled at local supermarkets
- Used oil should be brought to local gas stations or the Monmouth County Household Hazardous Waste Facility (call 732-683-8686 for more info)
- Compact florescent light bulbs (CFL) can be recycled at Home Depot & the long florescent bulbs must go to the hazardous waste Facility. To find out where to recycle additional items visit www.earth911.com or call 1-800- CLEANUP.

Can I recycle batteries?

Button batteries and rechargeable batteries should be recycled at the Monmouth County Household Hazardous Waste Facility (call 732-683-8686 for more info).

Button batteries: Button cell batteries still contain enough mercury that they need to be kept out of household trash and should be recycled. These batteries are frequently found in hearing aids, digital thermometers, insulin pumps, watches, toys and calculators.

Non-rechargeable batteries: Due to stricter federal manufacturing regulations, alkaline non-rechargeable batteries now contain very small amounts of toxins and are no longer considered a hazardous waste by federal and state standards. In addition, Monmouth County no longer accepts these alkaline non-rechargeable batteries for recycling, so Manalapan no longer has a facility to bring them to for recycling. Alkaline batteries (e.g. AA,AAA,C,D) can be thrown in the trash.

Rechargeable batteries: Rechargeable batteries, including those found in cordless power tools, wireless phones, laptop computers and digital cameras, should still be recycled. Rechargeable batteries can be recycled at participating retail locations including: Radio Shack, Best Buy, Staples, Target, Office Max, Lowes, Home Depot, Sears, Wal-Mart and Verizon Wireless. To find a retail collection site, use the collection site locator at www.call2recycle.org or call the consumer helpline 877-2-RECYCLE.

Where is the Recycling Drop-Off Center and when is it open?

The center is centrally located at 207 Route 522 (just east of the intersection of Tennent Road and Route 522) behind the Senior Center. The hours of operation are: Monday - Saturday 7:00 am – 2:00 pm.

What is recycling contamination and why is it harmful?

Recycling contamination occurs when the wrong items (such as styrofoam), or the right items prepared in the wrong way (such as in a plastic bag), are incorrectly placed in curbside recycling bins.

Contamination is harmful because it can damage sorting machinery, lower the resale value of materials, and even cause recyclables to go to the landfill. So, contamination is costly not only to our town, but also our environment.

If I am not sure if an item can be recycled should I put it in the recycling bin anyway?

No! You should go by the rule “If in doubt, throw it out”! “Wishful recycling” or putting an item in the bin in the hopes it will get recycled is a common problem nowadays and it leads well-meaning recyclers to contaminate the recycling process.

What is Recycle Coach?

Recycle Coach is a free service for residents that can be accessed on a computer, or a mobile device through a free app.

Residents can use it for the following:

Utilize the "What Goes Where?" search tool to see how you can donate, recycle, or safely discard hundreds of different common and uncommon items.

Stay organized with a custom curbside collection calendar.

Learn useful recycling tips and tricks.

Why can't plastic bags go in curbside recycling bins or be used to hold my recyclables?

Plastic grocery bags are not compatible with the machines that sort recyclables. They can actually cause the machinery to jam up and break.

How clean should a container be in order to recycle it?

Containers should be rinsed and cleaned out of any food and liquids, however they do not need to be thoroughly washed. For messy containers that require more than a simple rinse (*such as peanut butter jars*), let them soak or use a spatula to remove food waste from containers.

If the container is impossible to rinse and empty, it should be thrown out.

What about my pizza boxes?

Cardboard is recyclable, but the food in it is not. If the bottom of the box has grease and cheese on it, you should rip that off, throw it out, and recycle the rest.

Should I leave caps on my plastic bottles?

No, any caps or lids should be thrown away. The same goes for straws, pumps, and spray nozzles.

What do the numbers mean on the bottom of the plastic containers and which ones can I recycle?

- The numbers found on the bottom of plastic products are resin identification codes that were established by the plastics industry to help consumers identify the plastic type of various containers and products. It was hoped that this code would make it easier for consumers to identify whether and how to recycle various plastic products and packaging.

The resin identification codes are as follows:

- 01 PET - Polyethylene terephthalate (examples: soda & water bottles) ✓
- 02 HDPE - High-density polyethylene (examples: milk jugs & detergent bottles) ✓
- **03 PVC** - Polyvinyl chloride (*examples: juice bottles, cling films, & piping*)
- **04 LDPE** - Low-density polyethylene (*examples: squeezable bottles & frozen food bags*)
- 05 PP – Polypropylene (examples: yogurt/sour cream containers, margarine tubs) ✓
- **06 PS** – Polystyrene (*examples: foam egg cartons, packing peanuts, & Styrofoam*)
- **07 O (Other)** – Often Polycarbonate or Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) (*everything else, like nylon, acrylic, or fiberglass*).

What items are considered “Household Hazardous Waste”?

Household Hazardous Waste items are those found in your garage, shed, or even your home, that are dangerous to our environment and cannot be disposed of in your garbage or recycling containers:

- Thermostats
- Tires
- Cleaners and corrosives
- Pool and photographic chemicals
- Oil based paints & varnishes
- Rechargeable & car batteries
- Propane tanks (from BBQ grills only)
- Solvents and thinners
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Formaldehyde
- Compact fluorescent bulbs
- Used motor oil
- Old gasoline
- Fire extinguishers
- Antifreeze
- Smoke detectors

Latex paint is no longer considered HHW material, so it can be dried out and discarded in the trash.

Other Questions

Call the Manalapan Recycling Coordinator Troy Davis at 732-446-8404 Call the Monmouth County Reclamation Center at 732-683-8686