



TOP 10 RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING QUESTIONS



1. Can everything that comes in my mailbox be recycled?

No, not paper coated with plastic. A good test is - can you tear it? If yes, it's OK to recycle. Window envelopes are OK. When a magazine comes in plastic wrap, recycle the magazine, but throw the plastic wrapper in the garbage.

2. What plastics can be recycled?

All plastic containers can be recycled. Remove lids and recycle only lids 3 inches or larger. Smaller lids get stuck in machinery. Rinse out containers. (The number inside the triangle indicates the type of plastic, not whether it's recyclable.) Do not recycle plastic packaging—put that in the garbage.

3. Can I recycle plastic bags from the grocery store?

Yes. Put all plastic bags in a similar plastic bag and tie shut. This will prevent the bags from flying all over where recyclables are sorted. Please do not put recyclable materials in plastic bags for recycling. Put items loose in the blue recycling container. You can also recycle dry cleaning bags, plastic bags newspapers come in, and bubble wrap. Put them in a plastic grocery bag and tie shut.

4. What should I do with oil from deep frying?

Do not put grease down the sink or in with yard debris. Let grease solidify (kitty litter helps harden it) and then put it in the garbage. If you have larger amounts of grease from deep frying, check King County's website at <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/wdidw/index.asp>

5. Do I need to remove labels from jars, cans or plastic bottles? No. Labels are ok.

6. What's the best way to recycle food waste?

Line a container with a paper bag or a Bio-bag. You can get a small green food-waste container free from Allied Waste by calling 425-452-4762 if you're a customer. Or you can line a brown paper grocery bag with newspaper. Once a Bio-bag or paper bag is full of food scraps and food-soiled paper, put the whole thing in your yard debris cart. For information, visit http://www.bellevuewa.gov/recycling_food_waste.htm

7. Why can't I put used fluorescent light bulbs in the garbage?

Because they contain mercury. Take them to the household hazardous waste section of Factoria Transfer Station at 13800 SE 32nd St., Bellevue Tuesday-Sunday, 9am - 5pm. Call the Household Hazardous Waste line with questions about fluorescent light bulbs or other hazardous waste. Fluorescent bulbs can also be taken to Puget Sound Energy at 355

110th Ave NE, Bellevue or IKEA stores. Some Bartell Drug stores also take them. Check with Bartell's by phone before making a trip.

8. Can aluminum foil be recycled?

Yes, if it's clean and has no food on it. Aluminum pots and pans can also be put in the blue recycling container as long as they have no wood or plastic lids or handles.

9. Can I set cardboard out for recycling when it's raining?

A little bit of moisture is all right, but if it's raining hard, better to put the cardboard inside the blue recycling container or wait until a dry day. Mills don't want to purchase water drenched cardboard. Another concern is that it can get moldy in a shipping truck.

10. Can I recycle shredded paper?

Yes. Put it in a clear, plastic bag and tie shut. Place in your blue recycling container.

Recycling is worth the effort!

Bellevue single-family residents recycle a whopping 67.6% of their waste (when you count yard debris and food scraps!) Recycling provides jobs and saves limited natural resources, such as timber, water, and minerals. Recycling also saves energy and prevents pollution caused by harvesting, extracting, and processing raw materials to manufacture new products. Plus, it's less expensive to recycle than to put materials in a landfill, and millions of tons of materials are being diverted from landfills. Recycling definitely makes sense! For more facts on recycling, see <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserves/rrr/recycle.htm>

Do you have other recycling questions? Please call City of Bellevue Utilities at 425-452-6932. For more resources on where to take unwanted stuff, check King County's website What Do I Do With at <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/wdidw/>