



Forest Lake
AS GOOD AS IT SOUNDS

Resident Recycling Guide

Curbside Recycling:

Curbside Recycling in Forest Lake is single-sort, meaning you can put all of your recyclable materials in the same container.

Paper:

The following can be flattened and put in your recycling cart:

*Boxboard including corrugated cardboard (OCC)
Envelopes-window and metal clasps acceptable
Magazines and newspapers
Mail, office, school papers
Phonebooks
Shredded paper in closed paper bag*



Cartons (rinsed):

*Milk and broth cartons
Juice boxes*



Metal (rinsed):

Food and beverage aluminum/tin/bimetal cans



Plastics (rinsed):

*PET (#1) water, soda and juice bottles, ketchup and salad dressing bottles
HDPE (#2) milk and juice jugs, dish soap bottle and detergent jugs, shampoo, soap and lotion bottles
PP (#5) yogurt, pudding and fruit cups, margarine, cottage cheese and other tubs, clamshell containers and the lids/caps,*



Glass (rinsed):

Food and beverage bottles and jars (clear and colors accepted)



Place next to Recycling Cart:

Clean Used Clothing – tied in plastic bags, used motor oil and batteries

Frequently Asked Questions:

Plastic (Trash) Bags

These are not recyclable. Simply place your clean, loose recyclables in your cart.

Pizza Boxes

If the cardboard is soiled with food, it is not recyclable.

Batteries

Non-rechargeable

Non-rechargeable batteries are found in: radios, toys, televisions and cameras. The most common type of non-rechargeable batteries are ALKALINE, and are safe to be placed in your trash.

SILVER OXIDE, MERCURY OXIDE, and NICKEL CADMIUM non-rechargeable batteries are hazardous, and are required by law to be recycled.

Rechargeable

Many contain hazardous materials and must be properly disposed.
(see *Environmental Center below*)

Light Bulbs

Incandescent light bulbs

Incandescent light bulbs can be placed in the trash.

Fluorescent light bulbs

Fluorescent bulbs, tubes, high intensity discharge (HID) lamps and neon lamps present a hazard, because they contain mercury. They can be dropped off at the *Environmental Center*.

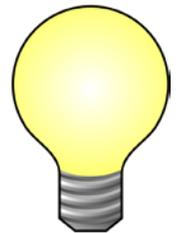
Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights

Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights do not contain hazardous materials and can be put in the trash.

Printer Cartridges

Inkjet and laser printer cartridges are safe to place in your trash, but can be refilled at many retail stores.

Styrofoam Styrofoam is not recyclable.



Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste requires special disposal. This can be done at:

Washington County's Environmental Center



Free and convenient disposal! Types of items accepted include:

Automotive products: Antifreeze, Brake fluid, Gasoline, Power steering fluid, Propane tanks, Rechargeable batteries, transmission oil.

Electronics: Cell phones, computers, monitors, DVD and VCR players, TVs.

Home improvement and construction products: Concrete cleaner, driveway sealer, paint, latex paint remover/stripper/thinner, stain/varnish.

Household items: Drain cleaner, fire extinguishers, fluorescent lights, some household cleaners.

Yard and garden products: Bug spray, fertilizer with weed killer, insect/roach/ant killer, pool chemicals, rodent bait, weed killer.

-Proof of residency is required.



Composting: You can do it in your backyard!

What do you need?

- Nitrogen-rich “greens” (e.g. food scraps)
- Carbon-rich “browns” (leaves, coffee grounds, yard trimmings, etc.)
- A compost bin (you can buy one or make your own)



In general, the right recipe is three parts dry ingredients (leaves or dry grass) to one part wet food waste. Chop the materials into smaller pieces so they break down faster.

Bin should be between 1 cubic yard (3 feet high, 3 feet wide, 3 feet long) and 5' x 5' x 5'.

How to get started:

Lay a base of browns-Make layers 4 to 6 inches on the bottom of the pile for good air circulation.

Alternate greens and browns.

Again make layers about 4 to 6 inches thick.

Water as you go. Squeeze a handful of compost; if small beads of water appear between your fingers, you have enough water.

Mix or turn the compost pile as needed.

In the summer months, the process will go pretty quick. In the winter, for the compost process to continue, you need a pile that is 5' x 5' x 5' at all times to provide enough insulation.



How to use the finished compost:

Mix in compost to improve soil

Spread compost on your lawn to help fill in low spots

Use as a mulch for landscaping and garden plants

Mix compost into pots for potted plants

The Other “R”s

The 1st “R”...Reduce!

Buy in Bulk

When grocery shopping, avoid ‘multi-packs’ of your favorite products in favor of bulk items. The extra packaging costs you money— up to three times as much as bulk items— and creates excess waste.



(source: RethinkRecycling.org)

Use Reusable Bags

Put them in your car and make yourself a note to bring them with you in the grocery store.



Make the switch

Stainless steel or other reusable water bottle, mugs instead of disposable coffee cups, etc. Find the alternative to disposables.



The 2nd “R”...Reuse!

Rent

Consider renting tools for home projects, lawn and garden equipment, party supplies, and camping and recreational gear.



Repair

Repairing an item is often less expensive than replacement. You can find step-by-step guides written by others at <https://www.ifixit.com/>

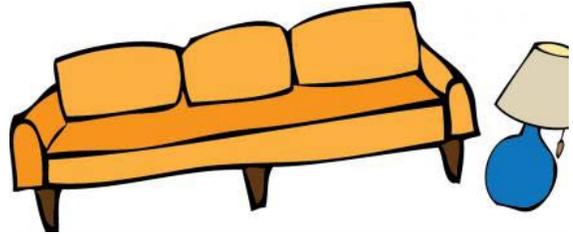


Let somebody else put it to good use

Twin Cities Free Market

The Twin Cities Free Market is an internet-based listing service for residents who want to give away or get free reusable goods for their home, garage or garden.

www.twincitiesfreemarket.org



The Freecycle Network

The Freecycle Network is similar to the Twin Cities Free Market. It is an online group of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns.

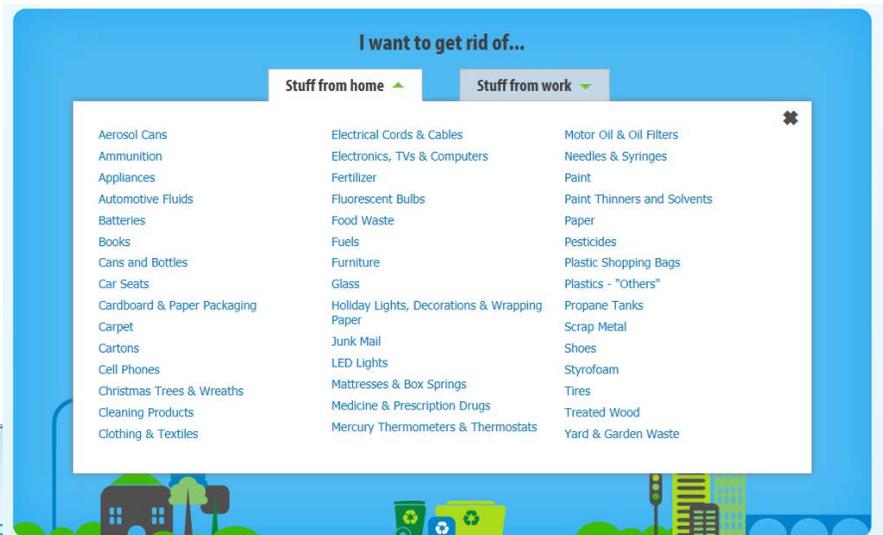
<http://www.freecycle.org/>



For more information, visit:

Rethink Recycling

Rethink Recycling makes it easy to recycle whatever you need, has waste reduction tips and ideas for homes and businesses, as well as education and event planning resources.



Washington County Resources

<https://www.co.washington.mn.us>

Click on Environmental Services, then Recycling and Waste Disposal.