

# Recycling: Art of separation and toss

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to recycle your refuse. Hold on to it until you get the hang of recycling. Honestly, it will become as second nature as returning your pop bottles to the grocery store.

**WHEN THE PROGRAM** begins, you'll have to think of your refuse differently. No longer will it all be grass clippings, glass, newspapers and food scraps — get mixed together into several garbage bags or containers. The idea behind the program is to separate your refuse. In the long run,

it will help reduce the entire stream of waste and enable some products, like glass and plastics, to be recycled and eventually reused in one way or another.

When July 1 dawns, that doesn't mean everyone will begin the program that day. Your turn will come sometime that week when it's your usual garbage collection day.

**LET'S SAY** you have your big green bin and it's your garbage collection day. You must have your recyclables, compostables and regular refuse at the curbside no later than 7 a.m.

In the recycling bin, you will put only items that can be recycled. That includes glass, cans, newspaper and plastic bottles. You can put your bin out every week or wait until it's full before putting it on the curbside.

You don't have to be meticulously orderly with your recyclables in the bin. For example, the glass jars can be set right next to the cans and plastics. Separating them from this point isn't your problem.

"They can be co-mingled," said Karen Birkholz, recycling coordinator for the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

If you have newspapers, they too go in the recycling bin. If you don't have many, you can tuck them into the recycling bin. You also can bundle them or put them in brown, paper bags on top of the rest of the recyclables.

**SOME QUESTIONS** have arisen about recyclable items that might be broken and whether they too should be put in the bin. Birkholz has the answer.

If the glass, for example, is broken into a couple of large pieces, put it in the bin. If it's shattered into many

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smaller pieces, throw it away with your regular rubbish, Birkholz said.

It will take some time to get the hang of recycling and what should be placed in the bin.

"Everyone will have to make a decision based on reason," Birkholz said.

**NOW THAT** leaves the rest of your refuse. Your grass clippings and other yard waste must be separated from the recyclables and refuse. Grass clippings and yard waste are called compost. You have two choices of what to do with the compost. You can put it in clear — not white — plastic bags.

"That's so the collector can tell what is compost and what is garbage," said Tom Biassell, Farmington Hills public services director.

The other choice for compost is to use your regular garbage or refuse container.

The information packet you'll receive in your recycling bin includes two "Yard Waste" stickers. If you use a container for compost instead of the clear plastic bags, you must adhere a sticker to each container you are putting on the curbside for compost.

**THE THIRD** facet of the curbside

program is your regular refuse or garbage.

This is the refuse that's left after you've separated recyclables and compostables. As before, you can put the regular refuse in a container or garbage bags and take it to the curbside.

If, on your designated collection day, you have large, bulk items that need picking up, just put them on the curbside with your recyclables, compostable and refuse. Collectors with Waste Management Inc., which has a six-year contract with Farmington and Farmington Hills, will pick it up with no need for you to call ahead.

**BECAUSE YOUR** garbage or refuse has been separated into recyclables, compostables, regular refuse and large, bulk items, Waste Management will send four trucks down your street on collection day at different times of the day.

A recycling truck will come to your curbside and pick up your recyclables. The driver will pick up your bin, hook it to the truck and by hand separate the items into special compartments on the truck.

The recycling truck is probably the most interesting truck of the lot because of its odd shape and compartments for recyclables.

Another truck — like any other garbage truck — will pick up your compostables. A third truck — not necessarily in that order — will pick up your regular refuse. And a fourth truck will pick up large, bulk items.

Remember, you are not alone in this new recycling program. If you have any questions you can call a new recycling hot line at 473-7279. The hot line will be June 24 through Aug. 2.

# What to toss into your recycling bin

Here are some details about what you can and can't recycle and what you can and can't include as compost.

**Remember that four groups of recyclables go into your 18-gallon, green plastic bin.**

- **Plastic containers:** containers that have either the numeral 1 or 2 within a triangle stamped on the bottom of the items are acceptable. Common containers with these stamped numbers are plastic milk and water jugs, laundry product bottles. To prepare the items for recycling, remove the lids, which are not recyclable, and put in the rubbish. Rinse the container and if possible, try to flatten it. DO NOT include plastic bags, motor oil containers, other plastic bottles with stamped numbers other than 1 and 2.
- **Glass:** clear, brown and green bottles and jars. Food and beverage glass containers only. Remove the lids, which are not recyclable, and place in rubbish. Rinse the containers. DO NOT include drinking glasses, ceramics or pottery, window panes or light bulbs.
- **Tin cans:** tin and aluminum food and beverage cans. Rinse cans and remove labels. DO NOT include motor oil cans, pie pans or aluminum foil.

• **Newspaper:** newspaper only. Remove all glossy inserts and put those in your regular rubbish. Tuck newspaper neatly to one side of bin or bundle your newspapers or put them in brown, paper bags. DO NOT include magazines, phone books, envelopes or other paper. If your newspaper has been used beneath your puppy or to line your bird cage, do not recycle it. "You can't recycle newspaper after it's been used for other things," said Karen Birkholz, recycling coordinator for the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Yard waste falls into two categories. The first is grass, leaves, weeds, garden waste, small wood chips and light brush. The second is large branches, heavy brush, large pieces of wood.

The yard waste can be placed in a clear plastic bag or container with the sticker "Yard Waste" placed on the container. Large yard waste, such as branches and heavy brush may be bundled. The branches cannot exceed four feet in length and six inches in diameter. The bundles cannot exceed 60 pounds.

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**SMART announces**  
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On July 1 customers in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Redford Township and Novi can take advantage of new transit service...route 300.

Whether shopping at Twelve Oaks, Novi Town Center or West Oaks, SMART can get you there.

Medical facilities at Botsford General Hospital and Providence Hospital - Providence Medical Center and employment sites such as TRW are served by this route.

See the map provided here to help you find the way. Specific route, schedule and fare information is available by calling 962-5515, weekdays 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Special notes:**

- For travel within Redford Township, call the Redford Community Connector at 537-3110.
- For subsidized taxi service in Farmington-Farmington Hills, call 421-5600.

**Map:** Shows route 300 connecting Farmington, Farmington Hills, Novi, and Redford Township. Key locations include Meadowbrook Rd, Hagerty, Halstead, Drake, Farmington, Mid-Ebelt, Inkster, E. Lake, Tech Daily, Grandview, Orchard Lake Rd, Novi Rd, Novi Town Center, and West Oaks.