

RECYCLING CHEAT SHEET



Learn more

RECYCLABLE

PLASTICS

**Keep caps on plastic beverage containers*

- Plastics number 1 (PET) as bottles or clamshells
- Plastics numbers 2 (HDPE)
- Plastics numbers 5 (PP)
- Recyclable plastics include, but are not limited to:
 - Beverage & detergent jugs
 - Food containers
 - Soda, juice, & water bottles



METALS

- Aluminum foil & pie tins (clean)
- Scrap metal
- Steel cans, dishware, etc.
- Tin & aluminum cans

PAPER (clean & dry)

- Envelopes
- File folders (paper only)
- Junk mail & magazines
- Newspaper
- Paper (white & mixed color)
- Paper grocery bags
- Telephone books
- Acceptable (but may not be recycled)
 - Cereal boxes (no plastic insert)
 - Egg cartons (paper only & clean)
 - Frozen food boxes
 - Soup, milk, & juice cartons



CARDBOARD (or similar)

- Cardboard & corrugated boxes
- Pizza boxes (clean sections only)

GLASS

**No window glass, porcelain, or non-food related glass. Please remove caps/lids.*

- Amber, green, & mixed-color glass
- Clear food glass jars
- Soda, tea, & liquor bottles

No Liquids or Food In Recyclables

LANDFILL

FOOD WRAPPERS/CONTAINERS

- Candy & protein bar wrappers
- Chip bags
- Disposable coffee cups & lids
- Juice & food pouches
- Bags with a mix of metal & plastic



GLASS/PORCELAIN

- Dishware
- Flower pots
- Incandescent light bulbs
- Porcelain
- Vases & glass figurines
- Window glass



PAPER

- All receipts
- Facial tissue, toilet paper, or wipes
- Gift wrap with plastic or metal
- Hardback books
- Laminated or plastic coated paper
- Padded or Tyvek-type envelopes
- Photographs

PLASTICS

- All plastics #3 & #6 (hard & foam)
- All black plastics
- Plastic toys
- Plastic bags, dry cleaning bags, cellophane, & bubble wrap
- Small plastics (utensils, straws, loose caps, & anything less than 4 inches)
- Garden hoses & plastic tarps
- Latex and plastic gloves
- Empty motor oil



MISC

- Disposable diapers
- Empty aerosol cans
- Pet waste
- Produce stickers
- Lint or unusable clothing & fabric
- All tea bags & tea bag wrappers
- Menstrual products
- Hard shells (e.g. clams, mussels, & oysters)

ORGANICS & SOILED PAPER

**Only if there is no green waste/food scrap collection. See list to right.*

- Includes all food scraps, green waste, & food-soiled paper

COMPOSTABLES

GREEN WASTE

- Grass clippings
- Flower & hedge trimmings
- Leaves & branches
- Lumber, scrap wood, & plywood types (not painted or treated)
- Weeds



FOOD SCRAPS

**Check your city page at [AthensServices.com](https://www.AthensServices.com) to confirm acceptability. Food Scraps includes putrescible matter produced from human or animal food production, preparation, & consumption activities. No produce stickers.*

- Bread, rice, & pasta
- Cheese & dairy
- Coffee filters & grounds
- Flowers & herbs
- Fruits & vegetables
- Meat, bones, poultry, seafood, & soft shells (e.g. lobster, crab, & shrimp)



FOOD-SOILED PAPER

**Must be 100% fiber-based. NO materials with bio-plastic, wax, or petroleum-based coating, liner, or laminate.*

- Egg cartons (paper)
- Food-stained paper
- Paper napkins & kitchen towels
- Pizza boxes
- Plates
- Straws (100% plant-fiber)
- Stir sticks (edible or wooden)
- To-go boxes (no coating)
- Utensils (fiber-based or wooden)

Updated February 2025. For a complete list, visit Athens' What Goes Where Guide at [CanIRecycleMy.com](https://www.CanIRecycleMy.com).

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ONLY

Hazardous material and electronic waste cannot be disposed of in your recycling, organics and/or trash containers, nor in the environment, down drains, and/or gutters. The following list includes the most common Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) items.

Residents: For a complete list of acceptable items, drop-off locations, and collection events, visit CleanLA.LACounty.gov/HHW.

Businesses: The County of Los Angeles S.A.F.E. Collection Centers accepts small business quantities by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call 1-888-CLEANLA (253-2652). Large businesses can schedule a hazardous or electronic waste collection by emailing SpecialWaste@AthensServices.com or by calling Athens' Customer Care Center at (888) 336-6100.

Automotive Products

- Carburetor & fuel injection cleaners
- Air conditioning refrigerants
- Transmission & brake fluid
- Automotive batteries
- Starter fluids
- Motor oil & filters
- Fuel additives
- Antifreeze



Other Flammable Products

- Propane tanks & other compressed gas cylinders
- Kerosene
- Home heating oil
- Diesel fuel
- Gas/oil mix
- Lighter fluid



Workshop/Painting Supplies

- Adhesives & glues
- Furniture strippers
- Oil or enamel based paint
- Stains & finishes
- Paint thinners & turpentine
- Paint strippers & removers
- Photographic chemicals
- Fixatives & other solvents



Cleaning Products

- Wood/metal cleaners & polishes
- Tub, tile, & shower cleaners
- Drain cleaners
- Oven cleaners
- Toilet cleaners
- Bleach (laundry)
- Pool chemicals



Indoor Pesticides

- Ant sprays & baits
- Cockroach sprays & baits
- Flea repellents & shampoos
- Bug sprays
- Houseplant insecticides
- Moth repellents
- Mouse/rat poisons & baits



Miscellaneous

- Batteries
- Mercury thermostats & thermometers
- Fluorescent light bulbs & tubes
- LED lights
- E-cigarettes & vape pens
- Driveway sealer



Lawn & Garden Products

- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Fungicides/wood preservatives



Electronics & Small Appliances

- Cell phone & tablets
- Computer monitors, towers, & laptops
- Desktop, printer, & scanner
- DVD, VCR, & music players
- Keyboard, mouse, & external hard drive
- Microwaves & small appliances
- TVs & gaming consoles
- Related cords



MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Medication includes:

- Over-the-counter & prescription medications
- Medicated lotions & ointments
- Sharps, needles, & lancets (if in FDA approved, rigid, puncture-resistant container)
- Pet medications
- Schedule II - V controlled substances

Scan the QR code to learn more about medication preparation and find free disposal sites.



HOW TO HANDLE BATTERIES



It is illegal to place batteries in your waste bins. Batteries should be disposed of as hazardous waste. They can spark fires or create an unsafe environment for waste workers. If properly collected, battery recyclers can repurpose the metal.

Storage tips to avoid short-circuiting and fires:

- Place a piece of non-conductive tape or duct-tape on the ends. **Do not cover the brand name or chemistry of the battery.**
- Store batteries in a container that does not conduct electricity (like plastic, cardboard, or glass).