



Trash and Recycling

Recycling

Recycle Carts

The Town of Cumberland provides each household with one blue recycling cart. All recycling must be placed in the recycling cart as loose items.

Please recycle **ONLY** the following in your bin/cart:

- Paper, cardboard, and cartons
- No shredded paper, and no napkins, tissues or paper towels.
- Metal cans, lids, and foil
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic containers

Click [here](#) for more information.

Recycling Must be Loose in the Cart -- nothing in paper or plastic bags

All recycling has to be loose in the recycling cart and cannot be collected if placed in plastic or paper bags. Flattened paper bags belong in the recycling bin, but paper bags holding recycling does not. The machines cannot empty the bag and properly sort the items in the bag, so please make sure all recycling is loose, not bagged in plastic or paper bags.

DON'T Contaminate Your Recycling

Putting something in your recycle cart that does not belong, causes all kinds of problems. Contaminated recycling will be left by our recycling company, and unfortunately will not be able to be collected until it is corrected.

Households that continually do not sort recycling properly will forfeit their trash collection. Cumberland has a No Bin No Barrel policy, meaning no recycling therefore no trash will be collected that week.

If contaminated recycling does get mixed in with our town recycling, RIRRC has the ability to issue a fine of \$250 to our community.

To make matters worse, a small amount of contamination could reject the whole load of recycling. In that case, that whole load that should have been recycled, will get reloaded and landfilled instead.

The town then pays trash tip fees to dispose this load. It also fills our landfill with mostly good recyclables, and we lose the recycling profit share on that tonnage.



Sorting Matters

Proper sorting will enable MRF to correctly process the items. Good clean recycling is worth a lot more than recycling mixed with other waste. Each year, after RIRRC sells the recycling, they share the profits with all the cities and towns. If they make more money, more money comes back to Cumberland.

No Shredded Paper

Do NOT put bagged shredded paper (shreds) in your recycling bin. To combat rising levels of contamination, Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (Resource Recovery) announced shredded paper will no longer be accepted in Rhode Island's mixed recycling program.

While shredded paper is being discontinued curbside, Resource Recovery will continue to accept shredded paper, secured in a bag, at their self-serve Small Vehicle Area (SVA) located at 65 Shun Pike in Johnston.

In addition to the drop-off container, Rhode Island residents can attend shredding events, compost shreds in backyard compost bins, or dispose of them in the regular trash.

No Plastic Bags

Plastic bags are not accepted loose, in bags of plastic bags, or holding recyclables. This thin material is not a container so is never allowed in the curbside recycling. Remember acceptable plastic for recycling, must be container shaped plastic.

Cart Placement

Where you place your cart is very important. Please remember these guidelines when you put your cart at the curb, and we will be able to easily collect your recycling.

- Place recycling cart with a 3 foot clearance ALL around the container.
- Make sure cart is NOT overloaded. Lid must be closed & lid should open toward the street.
- Place cart no further than 2 feet back from the road.
- Do NOT comingle recycling with trash. If trash, plastic bags, construction debris or hazardous waste are in your cart, the whole container will be left to be corrected for next week.



Recycle These Items Properly

- Clothing & Textiles – Please use the Kiducation or Goodwill boxes located in town.

As long as the items are clean and dry, they can go into these boxes. All clothing, even pieces with stains or missing buttons can be reused or repurposed. Un-wearable items are made into rags, stuffing and even insulation.

Savers will also accepted gently used clothing and textiles.

- Fluorescent Light Bulbs - Residents can bring florescent bulbs to Eco-Depot collections. Small bulbs are accepted at Home Depot & Lowes stores by the customer service desk. For tube bulbs, some area hardware stores accept them in a program with DEM and Clean Water Action.
- Plastic Bags -- Plastic bags get recycled, but not in the recycle cart. Bring back to a local retail store and look for the ReSTORE bin.
- Paint -- RI has a great PaintCare program to recycle both latex & oil-based paints. Some local paint retailers now allow drop off of accepted paints during their normal business hours.
- Styrofoam -- Hard packing Styrofoam can be recycled if brought to RI Resource Recovery. This item is one of the items collected in their Small Vehicle Drop Area.