



Forks Township
1606 Sullivan Trail - Easton, Pa. 18040 - Phone 610.252.0785

founded 1754

FORKS NEW CURBSIDE AUTOMATED RECYCLING PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF SINGLE-STREAM (MIXED RECYCABLES) RECYCLING?

- Reduced sorting makes it easier for residents to recycle;
- Reduced collection costs and collection routes can be serviced more efficiently;
- Single-stream provides an opportunity to add new materials to the list of accepted recyclables
- More paper grades may be collected, including junk mail, telephone books and mixed residential paper.
- Single stream increases recycling tonnages, which in turn *increases* the Township's state grant funding. It also *decreases* our waste disposal costs because every ton we recycle is one less ton we would have to pay to landfill!

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THESE WHEELED CARTS?

- The containers are well-balanced and very maneuverable, making them simple to roll to and from the curb. No more dragging heavy trash cans to the street or bags bursting on the way to the curb.
- Each cart is the property of Forks Township and will be embossed with the Township's name. An identification tag assigns a number to each property owner and street address. The Township will maintain a database for the numbered containers. The cart remains with the address in the event of a move.
- The carts are guaranteed by the manufacturer for 10 years. Most experts believe that many will last up to 20 years. The most common repairs are broken lids and occasionally broken wheels which are easily replaceable.
- Hinges keep the lids attached and prevent lids from blowing off and being run over by cars or lost.
- Lids keep water and animals out; prevent trash from escaping and blowing around the neighborhood.
- Automated carts are designed to stay upright in up to 45 mph winds.

- While they look big, their footprint is basically the same size as your existing trash container. But they hold the same amount of material as *three* of the regular size trash containers.

HOW AND WHEN WILL I GET MY CART?

Residents are currently expected to receive their carts during a two-week period beginning October 11, but check www.forkstownship.org for any changes in this date. Deliveries will continue until all eligible residents have received them.

Once you receive your cart you can begin using it immediately and placing it out for collection on the designated collection date. Residents will not need to be present for the delivery of their cart. More information will be contained in upcoming newsletters and on the website.

IS THERE A CHARGE TO THE RESIDENTS FOR THESE CARTS?

No. There is no additional charge to our residents. These carts are being paid for by a Pennsylvania Act 101 Recycling Grant.

IS OUR QUARTERLY BILL GOING UP FOR THESE ADDITIONAL SERVICES?

No.

CAN I GET A SMALLER CART?

Initially all single family residences will receive the 95 gallon carts. Certain townhomes will receive 65 gallon carts. After the initial “rollout” of these carts, elderly, infirm, or handicap residents may request the smaller ones.

Keep in mind that more recyclables will be moved into this cart. This includes all cardboard shipping boxes, etc. can now be placed in the cart without having to be flattened, cut or bound. The ease of recycling in this way requires more room than you previously used.

WHAT IF ONE CART IS NOT ENOUGH FOR OUR FAMILY’S RECYCLING NEEDS? CAN I GET A SECOND ONE?

One 95 gallon cart is typically well suited for families of 4 – 6 people and residents rarely need more than one.

WHAT IF MY CART IS STOLEN?

If your cart is stolen, you must report it to the Forks Police immediately. A stolen cart will be replaced free of charge, once you have provided the police case number.

Nationwide, communities report minimal theft of these carts due to being clearly embossed with the township name, the large size, and the fact that they are traceable through the RFID tag.

WHAT IF MY CART IS DAMAGED?

If the collection truck caused the damage, we will replace the cart at no charge to you. If the cart is damaged due to neglect, abuse, mutilation or modification, you will be responsible for purchasing a replacement cart. Wheels, lids, and axles are normally replaced at no cost to the resident.

If your cart is damaged, notify Forks Township at 610.438.2670 for replacement or repairs.

WHAT IF I AM PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED AND UNABLE TO GET MY CONTAINER TO THE CURB OR ALLEY?

Assistance to the physically challenged (door-curb side service) is available to anyone who needs it, as verified by your physician. To request this help, call the Township office at (610) 258 5909.

WHERE AND HOW DO I PLACE MY CART FOR COLLECTION?

- Carts must be within two feet of the curb edge by 4:00 AM on the morning of collection and must be removed from the street no later than 7:00 PM on collection day. Carts are not to be left on the street all week.
- Please place the cart at least 4 feet from any tree, utility pole, mailbox, fire hydrant, etc., and at least 5 feet away from any cars parked in the street. Carts must be placed at least 3 feet apart from each other.
- Do not lean anything against the container, since that will prevent it from being lifted for dumping.
- Remember to place the arrows on the lid of the container toward the street and the handle toward the house.

WHAT ABOUT PARKED CARS?

The automated truck arm has a reach of 6 feet. The arm requires 3' clearance around the cart for the lifting mechanism to work properly. Cars parked too close or directly in front of the container will inhibit or even prevent collection.

WHY DO THE HANDLES ON THE GARBAGE AND RECYCLING CONTAINERS NEED TO BE FACING MY HOUSE?

The automated collection truck cannot turn the container around as it picks it up. Dumping the container “backwards” can break or damage the lid.

WHY DO I NEED TO PROVIDE SPACE BETWEEN MY GARBAGE CART, RECYCLING CART, AND OTHER ITEMS OUT FOR COLLECTION?

A different vehicle collects each item, so access is important. Also, the collection arm on the automated truck requires space to make the collection safely so that it will not tip over other containers or damage your property.

WHAT IF IT SNOWS?

As long as carts are placed within three feet of the curb, emptying the carts should not be a problem; or, set the cart out the following week once the weather improves.

HOW DO I STORE AND CARE FOR MY CART?

- Do not drag the cart when moving it. Tilt and roll it with the lid closed.
- Keep lid closed at all times.
- Clean the cart periodically with water.
- Store the cart in the backyard, side yard, or garage.

WHAT SHOULD I NOT DO TO MY CART?

- Do not store it near a fireplace, furnace, grill or other heat source.
- Do not place hot ashes, solvents, paints, or other flammable liquids in the cart.
- Do not use the cart to hold hazardous materials such as: dead animals, chemicals, oils, liquids and medical waste, exposed needles, used bandages, etc.
- Do not place dirt, rocks, large limbs, or building materials in the cart.
- Do not place automotive parts or tires in the cart.
- Do not overfill the cart to the extent the lid will not fully close. If the lid is not closed, garbage can spill onto the road during collection *so the container will not be emptied.*
- Do not allow children to play in or on the cart.
- Please DO NOT write house numbers or put any other marking on the carts. The carts have RFID tags and serial numbers that identify your residence.
- The cart is the property of Forks Township. If you move, please leave the cart at your home.

I BOUGHT A CART AT HOME DEPOT THAT LOOKS JUST LIKE THE ONES WE’LL BE USING. MAY I USE IT?

No, the automated truck can ONLY pick up the containers designated as Forks Township maroon containers with a gold lid.

IS MY TRASH COLLECTION DAY CHANGING?

No.

WHAT GOES INTO MY RECYCLING CONTAINER?

All the items that previously went into your yellow recycling bin can now be placed all together LOOSE into your maroon cart with the gold yellow lid. There is no need to bag or separate items in the cart.

- Plastics: #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 - NO STYROFOAM OR PLASTIC BAGS OF ANY KIND. Rinse and discard caps.
- Glass: Green, brown, or clear. Rinse and discard lids.
- Cans: Aluminum, bi-metal, tin, and aerosol cans. Rinse
- Mixed Paper: Newspaper, office or mixed paper, magazines, junk mail, phone books. No need to tie, bundle, or remove staples.
- Cardboard: Shoe, shipping, and cereal boxes. No need to bundle, flatten or cut up unless cardboard is too large to release from the cart easily.

WHAT SHOULD NOT GO INTO MY RECYCLING CONTAINER?

Do not place plastic bags of any kind, food contaminated items (pizza boxes, dirty paper plates, etc.), mirrors, ceramics, windows, any glass that is not a bottle, light bulbs, shipping film, plastic wrap, electronics, hazard waste or Styrofoam of any kind into your recycling container. IF IT'S NOT LISTED ABOVE, DO NOT PLACE IT IN YOUR RECYCLING CART.

DO I NEED TO CLEAN MY RECYCLABLES BEFORE PLACING THEM IN THE CART?

Yes, it is recommended. Rinsing your items keeps things sanitary and your cart clean.

DOES CARDBOARD HAVE TO BE BUNDLED AND TIED?

Cardboard boxes do NOT have to be bundled and tied. Items such as cereal and shoe boxes can now simply be dropped into the cart. To prevent cardboard from being jammed too tightly, we ask that you cut or flatten the larger cardboard items so that the container can be easily emptied.

CAN I PLACE ADDITIONAL RECYCLING NEXT TO THE CART?

No. All recycling must be placed inside the recycling carts. Recyclables left in bags or other types of containers or carts, other than the Forks Township's specific carts, will not be collected.

HOW FULL SHOULD MY RECYCLING CART BE WHEN I SET IT OUT?

It is most efficient and economical for our trucks to make stops for full, or nearly full carts. Also, it improves air quality when trucks don't have to make unnecessary stops. If your cart is not full and you feel you can wait until the next collection cycle, please do not put your cart out.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY OLD RECYCLING CONTAINER?

- Old trash and recycling containers can be used to store yard waste, if you'd like. Just be sure to only put them out only during the designated Special Yard Waste Collection days.
- If you do not wish to keep your old recycling container, you can drop it off at the Forks Public Works Building, 100 East Newlins Road, Easton, PA.

WHY CAN WE NO LONGER PUT OUT TV'S AND CERTAIN ELECTRONICS?

This is not a result of Forks Township's waste and recycling contract. This is a result of a new Pennsylvania disposal ban effective January 24, 2013, which prohibits landfills and other solid waste disposal facilities from accepting items such as televisions, computers, hard drives, monitors, keyboards, printers or other type of components.

These items can be disposed of at AERC Recycling Solutions, 2591 Mitchell Ave, Allentown, PA. For more information go to www.aerc.com or call 610-797-7608.