



School Recycling Program

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Frequently Asked Questions

General Concerns

1. **How do I find out my pickup day?** Paper and cans/bottles are picked up by two separate trucks. For paper pickup, call 856-6006. For cans/bottles, check with your cafeteria manager. The cans/bottles are picked up by the same truck that picks up polystyrene trays and steel food cans. If your cafeteria manager is unsure, call 856-6006.
2. **Will the recycling contractors continue to collect at our school if we only have a very small amount of recyclables at the dock?** Yes, they are scheduled to stop at your school regardless of volume generated.
3. **Will recycling services continue during summer months?** The paper recycling contractors will continue to service your paper roll carts through the summer. Check with your cafeteria manager about can/bottle pickup.
4. **Our cardboard dumpster is full, broken, missing, etc. What should we do?** The cardboard dumpster is contracted through Waste Industries. If you have concerns, call the WCPSS Auxiliary Services, Buildings and Grounds Division at 856-7900.
5. **We are recycling ink cartridges at our school and I need more information.** The ink cartridge recycling program is coordinated through WCPSS Auxiliary Services, Organizational Development at 856-SAVE.
6. **Our News and Observer newspaper recycling bin is full, broken, missing, etc. What should we do?** Call the offices of the N&O at 829-8903.

Beverage Recycling:

1. **Can I put the cans and bottles in the same roll cart as the paper?** No. The paper is picked up by a truck that only takes paper. Your cans and bottles are picked up by the same truck that collects polystyrene trays and steel food cans. In order for your cans/bottles to be picked up for recycling, you must collect them in a clear plastic bag or liner and place the full bags next to the polystyrene trays and steel food cans that are out for collection. You should check with your cafeteria manager to find out the exact location. MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS: In most cases, the truck for cans and bottles does not come everyday. Due to health and sanitation reasons, bags of cans and bottles should only be left out the day of or day before pick up. Leaving the bags outside for an extended time may result in deductions on your cafeteria's health inspection. Bags can be left outside if they are in a covered container (but not a green roll cart).
2. **Do you provide the clear plastic liners?** No. Your custodian may already have the liners or be able to order them.
3. **Can we have recycling containers for cans and bottles?** In the past, we have provided a limited number of large containers for cans and bottles as a *courtesy*. However, once the current stock is depleted, we will no longer provide those containers. Some schools have collected boxes on their own to be used in each classroom for cans and bottles. We do not recommend allowing classes to recycle cans and bottles in their green "paper only" classroom bins as any leftover liquid may contaminate the paper. If you do choose to do that at your school, the cans and bottles must be removed before putting the paper in the large roll carts.
4. **Do the caps have to be removed from plastic bottles?** It's best if they are, but if left on, they will be recycled. The caps are a different type of plastic than the bottles and will be sorted out. If left on, caps can pose operational problems in a truck or MRF when compacting occurs. The air inside the bottle is forced out and lids can act as projectiles, posing a safety hazard.

5. **Do the labels on plastic bottles have to be removed?** No, the sorting process is very harsh, and labels come off due to friction and banging around with other recycled items.
6. **Do the pull-tabs on aluminum cans have to be removed?** No, they are made of aluminum and can be recycled with the can.
7. **Should we rinse our bottles and cans?** All liquids should be removed before recycling. Only rinse if the material will be stored for a long period of time in order to eliminate odors and bees.
8. **Should we crush our bottles and cans?** It's not a requirement, but crushing increases the number of cans and bottles that can be placed in one container.
9. **What can be recycled in these containers?** All DRINKING bottles (where the neck is smaller than the base) and aluminum cans. You cannot recycle yogurt cups, plastic utensils, or food containers. At this time, glass cannot be recycled in these containers.
10. **Do we have to separate plastic from aluminum?** No, these containers can be mixed, or commingled. They will be sorted at the MRF later.

Paper Recycling:

1. **Can we place crumpled, balled-up, or shredded paper in the bins?** Yes, as long as the paper is on the acceptable material list. Do not bag shredded paper.
2. **Can we recycle clean tissues or napkins?** No, these should be placed in the trash.
3. **Can paper clips and staples be left on the paper?** Yes. **What about rubber bands?** No.
4. **We recycled a lot this week. Can we get an extra pickup?** We cannot provide extra pickups. If this is a temporary situation, you can place any extra paper in clear plastic bags and set them on top of your roll carts. If your carts are regularly overflowing, we may be able to provide you with an additional roll cart.
5. **Can laminated paper be recycled?** No.
6. **My paper wasn't picked up last week. Why?** There are several reasons why this may have occurred. The most common reason is that the carts were not out in time. The driver's route begins very early in the morning, often before most schools open. If you put your carts out on the day of pickup, you may have put them out after the driver came to your school. We suggest that you place the carts out the day before your pickup day to ensure that they will be there when the driver arrives. Other reasons your paper may not have been picked up include: carts were not in the correct location or access to the collection site was blocked. If you need to change your collection site due to construction or other issues, please contact us so that we can let the driver know. The driver will only pick up carts in the designated location.
7. **What is the difference between lined handwriting paper and notebook paper?** Lined handwriting paper is the type of paper that elementary students use when learning how to write their letters. It is typically off-white or tan colored with very large lines.
8. **What should we do if liquid is spilled into the paper bin?** If any contaminant such as dirt or liquid is in the bin, the affected paper should be removed and thrown away.
9. **What is the best way to move paper through the school for recycling?** Each school should make this decision individually; however, many schools designate a day (usually a few days prior to their service day) to collect paper. During the designated collection time, teachers place their full bins outside their classroom door, and the roll carts are then wheeled through the halls to collect the material, and later taken to the loading dock.
10. **How much paper did we recycle last month?** All data regarding pounds of paper recycled is available on our website: www.wakegov.com/schools/recycling.

For all other concerns, please call 856-6006 or email FeedTheBin@wakegov.com