

ELLWOOD CITY BOROUGH RECYCLING INFORMATION



Who must Recycle: All residents and businesses of Ellwood City Borough are required by state and local laws to recycle at their curb. Property managers must provide recycling for housing, condo, or apartment complexes for situations where they arrange for trash disposal. Act 101 and Ellwood City provide penalties for recycling violations.

Contact:

Valley Waste - 724-843-9373

<https://www.valleywasteservice.com/>

The borough website has additional information:

<https://www.ellwoodcityborough.com/services/recycling-trash>

How are Materials Collected: At your curb. Materials can be mixed together.

When: Every other week. Contact your hauler for your schedule.

Large/Bulky Item Pickup: Yes. Year-round tag program for large/bulky items. Contact borough for information or to purchase tags.

Leaf & Yard Waste (excluding grass): Yes. Leaves, grass clippings, branches less than 3" diameter, brush, plants, flowers, roots, shrubbery, wood chips, and saw dust. Check with borough for Yard Waste Bins, schedule, and materials collected. Yard waste bins are collected on specified weeks throughout the calendar years. Dates are also provided on borough utility bills.

If a resident has extra yard waste that does not fit into a container, it is recommended that they bundle and tie branches together. The branch bundles can be no longer than 4 ft. and should be placed next to the container. For all other extra yard waste, residents may place these items in the brown biodegradable bags that may be purchased at most hardware stores. Please do not place the items in plastic bags as the waste dump sites for yard waste materials will not accept these items.

Christmas Trees: Yes. Live trees only, no decorations, and do not place in bags. Contact the borough for the location and schedule.

Recyclable Materials Collected

- Glass* food/beverage BOTTLES/JARS
- Aluminum
- Steel, and Tin CANS
- Plastic BOTTLES & JUGS
- Corrugated Cardboard, Magazines, Newspapers, Including Inserts
- Mixed Office Paper
- Junk Mail

Only bottles, jugs, cans, and clean paper are recyclable in the curbside program. Do not place materials in plastic bags and do not include any items not listed. Acceptable materials may periodically change so always follow the information provided from your hauler. Businesses must also recycle but may pick the recycling hauler of their choice.

*Glass is repurposed for use as an alternative daily cover.

Updated: January 2024

<https://lawrencecountypa.gov/departments/recycling-and-solid-waste>

www.mercercountypa.gov/recycling



Recycling/Solid Waste Department
(724) 658-6925



USEFUL INFORMATION



BOROUGH OF
ELLWOOD CITY

Recycling can be confusing because what is accepted as recyclable may be different between hauling companies and communities. Recycling programs are driven by markets and vary from region to region and state to state. Newer residents that move to our community are often surprised by the differences.

"Wishcycling" and Contamination

Contamination occurs when trash/unacceptable materials are placed in your recycling bin. With wishcycling people mean well, but unintentionally hurt recycling programs by placing the wrong materials into their bins. Examples include plastic toys, food containers, tubing, or buckets. When placed in the recycling bin, these and similar items must be physically removed and then landfilled. It is estimated that up to 20% of the cost of recycling is used to deal with items that should have been placed in the trash. Items that are not listed as recyclable WILL NOT get recycled. This includes plastic bags.

Plastic is the most confusing material because it comes in a variety of forms and resins that are chemically different. People often think that because something is "plastic" that it is recyclable. This is not the case. The same holds true with the "recycling" symbol and number commonly found on plastic items. The purpose of the symbol and number is to indicate the resin type. It has nothing to do with recycling!

Instead, focus on the shape of item. When it comes to recycling, think "plastic bottles/jugs, metal cans, and clean paper." If you're holding a plastic item, consider if it is a bottle. For example, butter tubs, yogurt containers, and clam-shell/take-out food containers are plastic and usually have a recycling symbol and number on them. But—they are not a bottle/jug and belong in the trash. When in doubt, throw it out.

How to Prepare Your Recyclables

A simple rinse of food/beverage bottles and jugs is all that is needed. Cardboard should be flattened and mixed papers (magazines, junk mail, newspapers) can be placed in your bin loosely or in a brown paper bag. Do not put any materials in plastic bags. Plastic bags must be ripped open. And loose bags jam conveyor belts and gears. They are a significant cost to manage when they get into the system and will not get recycled at the recycling center. Many local grocers accept plastic bags for recycling.

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