

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Here's an easy-to-use chart to determine what the Department of Public Works (DPW) does and doesn't recycle and options for reusing and donating. Call DPW (240-487-3590) to arrange pickups of any items.

Item	Does DPW Recycle It?		Additional Information
	Yes	No	
Aerosol spray cans		X	Place in trash cart.
Aluminum cans and steel or tin-plated food and drink cans	X		Place in blue recycling cart.
Aluminum foil, trays and pans	X		Clean and reuse or recycle; place in trash if not clean.
Antifreeze		X	Take this hazardous waste to Brown Station Landfill ¹ .
Appliances (refrigerators, etc.)	X		Call DPW to arrange for pickup.
Bamboo	X		Call DPW to arrange for pickup. Bundle with string or stack (< 5 ft long)
Batteries, automobile		X	Take this hazardous waste to Brown Station Landfill ¹ . Also check with your local auto service center for possible collection option.
Batteries, household		X	Place tape on battery terminals, and take to My Organic Market (MOM). Home Depot accepts rechargeable batteries only ² . Visit this EPA website: http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/battery.htm
Books (hard and soft covers)	X		May be placed in recycling cart, but first check for donation opportunities to charities, libraries, and/or schools.
Brush, branches and shrubs	X		Call DPW for pickup. Bundle with string or stack (less than 5 ft & 75 lbs.)
Building materials		X	Call DPW to arrange for pickup. Check with Community Forklift, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, or The Loading Dock for donations opportunities. ³
Cassettes (if usable)		X	Donate to charities or libraries.
Carbon and thermal fax paper		X	Place in trash.
Cell phones	X		Call DPW for recycling pickup. During weekend cleanup events, bring to DPW, or donate (http://www.recellular.com/recycling/donatePhones.asp).
Christmas trees	X		Place at the curb during the announced collection dates.
Cling wrap (clean)	X		Secured in 1 bag or deposit in recycling bins at grocery stores.
CDs (if useable)		X	Donate to charities or libraries.
Clothing (if useable)		X	Donate to charities.
DVDs (if useable)		X	Donate to charities or libraries.
Electronics	X		Call DPW to arrange for pickup, or bring to Davis Hall during announced weekend cleanups. Includes: all computer parts, TVs, telephones, cell phones, PDAs, printers, copiers, scanners, fax machines, microwaves, stereos, CD players, VCRs, DVD players, digital cameras, and camcorders.
Ink cartridges from printers		X	Take to office supply stores such as Staples.
Food wastes		X	Compost (non-meat) food wastes or place in trash.
Furniture		X	Donate to charities if useable. Call DPW for special pickup if unusable.
Gift wrap, metallic		X	Reuse or place in trash.
Glass, broken		X	Insert into rigid container, label as "broken glass," and place in trash.
Glass, unbroken (jars and bottles)	X		Rinse glass containers out before placing them in your blue single-stream recycling bin.
Grass	X		Jan-Oct: Collected in paper bags or reusable containers. Nov-Dec: rake to the curb (NOT into street) for City leaf vacuum pickup on posted dates.

Item	Does DPW Recycle It?		Additional Information
	Yes	No	
Hazardous materials, such as oil, paint, poison, caustics, explosives, pressurized tanks		X	Take this hazardous waste to the Brown Station landfill. ¹
House wares		X	Donate to charities or place in trash.
Leaves	X		Jan-Oct: Collected in paper bags or reusable containers. Nov-Dec: rake to the curb (NOT into street) for City leaf vacuum pickup on posted dates.
Light bulbs (incandescent, CFLs, halogen)		X	Several local retail stores, including Home Depot and MOM will recycle. ²
Logs	X		Call DPW to arrange for pickup (less than five feet and 75 pounds).
Medical wastes, such as syringes, needles and sharps		X	Dispose of these hazardous wastes in a sharps container or, if not available, in a rigid plastic or metal container with a lid. Place in trash.
Mirrors		X	Donate useable items to charities, or place in trash.
Moisture-resistant paperboard	X		Examples: Aseptic packaging (milk/juice boxes), frozen food boxes.
Motor oil	X		Dispose of used motor oil at DPW 24 hours a day.
Napkins, paper towels, tissues		X	Compost or place in trash.
Paint, including latex, acrylic, and water-based paints		X	Let the paint leftover in the can dry completely (add kitty litter to aid drying), and, when hardened, dispose in regular trash.
Paint, oil-based		X	Take this hazardous waste to Brown Station Landfill. ¹
Paper	X		Place in blue recycling cart. Examples: notebook, copier/printer, newspapers, mail, envelopes (clear windows ok), phone books, books, clean pizza boxes, sticky notes, paper gift wrap, index cards, cardstock, and cardboard (corrugated and light cardboard like shoe or cereal boxes), etc. Shredded paper should be contained in 1 plastic bag in recycling cart.
Plastic bags	X		Secured in 1 bag or deposit in recycling bins at most grocery stores.
Plastic containers with 1-7 recycling symbol	X		Examples: soda bottles, margarine tubs. Place in your blue recycling cart with your other recyclables. No salad bar or biodegradable containers.
Scrap metal and white appliances	X		Call DPW to arrange for pickup. Do not place items in recycling cart.
Styrofoam® products and packaging materials		X	Take packing materials (like peanuts) to local packing stores like UPS. Molded #6 foam can be taken to Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers ⁴ . Dispose of foam trays that come with food items in the trash.
Tires	X		Call DPW for a pickup. There is a charge of \$4 for each tire. Do NOT place in trash or recycling carts.
Trees	X		Call DPW to arrange for pickup (less than five feet long and 75 pounds).
Waxed paper		X	Reuse or place in trash.
Weeds	X		Jan-Oct: Collected in paper bags or reusable containers. Nov-Dec: rake to the curb (NOT into street) for City leaf vacuum pickup on posted dates.

¹Brown Station Landfill: 11611 White House Road, Upper Marlboro, MD. For more details: 301-883-5045 or www.goprincegeorgescounty.com.

² Home Depot: 4700 Cherry Hill Road, College Park, MD 20740; 301-345-6774.

My Organic Market (MOM): 9827 Rhode Island Ave., College Park, MD 20740; 301-220-1100.

³Community Forklift: 4671 Tanglewood Dr., Edmonston, MD 20781; 301-985-5180; www.communityforklift.com

Habitat for Humanity ReStore: visit www.habitat.org/cd/env/restore.aspx to find the nearest location.

The Loading Dock: 2 North Kresson St. Baltimore, MD 21224; 410-558-DOCK; www.loadingdock.org.

⁴Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers: 1298 Cronson Blvd, Suite 201 Crofton, MD 21114; 410-451-8340; www.epspackaging.org.

Note: To donate and retrieve various items, try The Freecycle Network™ at www.freecycle.org.



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