

Fort Collins Recycling Guide

Last revised 11/4/09 by Allie Rich

Item	Includes (can be recycled)	Excludes (cannot be recycled)	Where to Recycle...	Where it goes and what it is recycled into...	Tidbits & Notes
Glass	All colors of glass (brown, amber, green, blue, clear)	ABSOLUTELY NO PYREX GLASS, MIRRORS, CRYSTAL OR CERAMICS!	Try to avoid putting glass into commingled bins. On average, only 30% of the glass that is put into commingled bins is recycled. This is due to breakage and issue of small pieces contaminating other recycling waste streams. However, if the glass is collected separately 100% of the glass is recycled. Fort Collins residents can toss their glass into "glass only" bins located at Rivendell Recycling Center at 1702 Riverside and behind Chippers Lanes at 217 West Horsetooth.	Amber glass is delivered to Rocky Mountain Bottle Company where it is recycled into Coors beer bottles.	Did you know that only about 30% of the glass that goes into a commingled bin actually gets recycled due to breakage and contamination. It is best to recycle your glass separate from your other recyclables. This isn't only a issue for Fort Collins but a national issue. We are fortunate to live in a city that cares about recycling rates and landfill diversion.
Newspaper	Clean newspaper & newspaper inserts	Rubber bands, plastic bags, product samples, water, dirt, mold or other contaminates	Curbside recycling bins or City Recycling Drop-off Facility located at 1702 Riverside Avenue	Newspaper is sent to mills where it is recycled into more newspaper or shredded into insulation.	Paper recycling saves trees.
Paper	Junk mail, magazines, photocopies, plastic window envelopes and computer print outs	Waxed paper, milk cartons, carbon paper, laminated paper, foil, and any wet or food stained paper.	Curbside recycling bins or City Recycling Drop-off Facility located at 1702 Riverside Avenue	Paper is sent to mills where it is recycled into more paper.	Paper fiber can be recycled about 7 times before the fibers gets too small to be recycled into more paper. Plastic window envelopes are ok!
Phone Books	All phone books	Take all plastic bags off phone books before recycling them.	Curbside recycling bins or City Recycling Drop-off Facility located at 1702 Riverside Avenue	Phonebooks are usually recycled into more phone books. However, they can be recycled into insulation, cat litter, cereal boxes and building materials.	You can email phone book companies to get on their "do not deliver" list.
Paper Board (Chip Board)	6-pack carriers, cereal, cracker & shoe boxes (most dry food boxes)	Drink boxes, soy milk boxes and any other plastic coated or waxed chip board	Cam can be recycled with cardboard. Curbside recycling bins or City Recycling Drop-off Facility located at 1702 Riverside Avenue	Paperboard is sent to mills where it is recycled into more paperboard or mixed in with cardboard to make more cardboard.	Only a percentage of paperboard actually has re-usable fibers.
Corrugated Cardboard	All cardboard - packaging boxes, including pizza boxes (Only the tops of pizza boxes. Oil contaminated cardboard is not recyclable.)	Severely food contaminated cardboard CANNOT be mixed with other cardboard. Wax covered cardboard is not accepted!	Curbside recycling bins or City Recycling Drop-off Facility located at 1702 Riverside Avenue	Cardboard is sold to mills to be converted into more cardboard.	Fort Collins residents who subscribe to trash and recycling service within city limits may recycle corrugated cardboard (shipping boxes and pizza boxes), brown paper bags, and paperboard (shoe boxes, cereal boxes, paper towel tubes, egg cartons, etc.) at the curb, along with their magazines, junk mail, newspapers, and commingled bottles and cans.
Metals	All metal items can be recycled.	Aluminum should be separated out into specific aluminum area	Click here for list of metal recyclers	Metals are sent to metal buyers who grind the material down and recycle them back into metal items.	Copper is sent to smelters out of the county as there are none left in the US.
Appliances	Working and non-working metal house appliances: such as refrigerators ranges, washers and dryers, hot water heater tanks. NO plastic or ceramic See E-waste for recycling televisions and computers.	NO plastic or ceramic appliances.	Click here for appliance recycling options	Metal appliances are delivered to metal buyers who grind the material down and recycle them back into metal items.	Often metal recyclers will pay for appliances weighing more than 400 lbs. Sometimes you may have to pay for proper disposal of items that contain freon.

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Aluminum	Cans, clean foil, scrap aluminum such as lawn chairs, window frames and pots	Other metals	Curbside recycling bins or City Recycling Drop-off Facility located at 1702 Riverside Avenue	Aluminum items are sent to remanufacturing aluminum plants, where they're made into new aluminum cans and bottles.	Aluminum can be recycled over and over again forever! Do not recycle containers with traces of hazardous materials. These can be disposed of at Larimer County Landfill Hazardous Waste Collection Site.
Steel & Tin (Cans)	Steel and tin cans and containers and small steel items	Non-steel items, large steel items	Curbside recycling bins or City Recycling Drop-off Facility located at 1702 Riverside Avenue	Steel and tin items are sent to metal recycler where they're made into new steel items.	There is no need to remove labels or bands from cans and bottles. Clean only enough to prevent odors. Do not recycle containers with traces of hazardous materials. These can be disposed of at Larimer County Landfill Hazardous Waste Collection Site.
Electronics	Televisions, computers and computer parts, shaver, portable appliances etc.	Ask recyclers what they take and what they don't, each is different	Click here for a list of e-waste recycling options	Most components of electronic devices can be recycled. Electronics are dismantled at recycling centers. Items are sorted out into parts, metals, plastics and are shipped to appropriate remanufacturing vendors.	Every year billions of computers and other electronics are sent to landfills. Most electronic waste contains significant quantities of hazardous materials, such as lead and mercury. Most states it is prohibited to landfill electronics, to ensure these toxic materials do not contaminate our ground water. Note that sometimes you may have to pay a small fee (to cover handling and specialized recycling processes) to recycle certain types of e-waste including computer CPUs, monitors and TVs.
I-POD	I-pods	MP3 Players and other handheld music devices	Click here for apple's recycling info	Apple dismantles I-Pods to recover usable parts and extract recyclable materials.	Apple has instituted programs around the world to facilitate the recycling of electronics — diverting over 21 million pounds of equipment from landfills since 1994.
Used, Unwanted Household goods	Clothes, containers, cooking supplies, furniture...pretty much any item in your home.	Dirty, unclean items	Bring to your local thrift store, consignment store, charity donation center or have a garage sale. Try to sell or give away your items on Craig's List or Freecycle.com	When you donate or sell your used items instead of trashing them you are helping to divert waste away from landfills.	Your trash is another person's treasure.
Eyeglasses	Any prescription eye glasses	Severely damaged, unfixable eye glasses, sunglasses	Drop off old prescription glasses at your local Lens Crafters, Pearle Vision, Sears, Target, your local Lions Club.	Eyeglasses are given to charitable programs that give free eyewear and vision care to underprivileged individuals in North American and in developing countries.	Approximately 25% of the world's population needs eye glasses and can't afford vision care.

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Home building supplies	Any building supply (used or new)	Ask the recycler what they do and do not accept at their facility	Click here for a list of building supply recyclers.	Salvageable building materials can be resold to home builders or recycled into new materials.	Before visiting Home Depot try one of our many local used building stores. By buying used products you help to reduce the disposal of materials into the landfill.
Cell Phones	All cell phones	Most are accepted at this time	Click here of a list of cell phone recyclers.	Phones are sent to buyers to be refurbished or striped for recyclable or usable parts.	Toxic elements can be found in many of today's cell phones can include arsenic, in semi-conductors and lead in the solder material. While the materials in a single phone are minimal consider the number of discarded cell phones in the relatively short time the technology has been available. The placement of these devices in landfills will cause long lasting damage and harm to the environment.
Laser & Ink Printer Cartridges	Used laser and ink printer cartridges	All are accepted at this time	Click here for a list of laser and ink printer cartridge recyclers.	Cartridges are refurbished or refilled.	The Green Cartridge Company was established in 2004 with one clear goal; to deliver quality cartridges while eliminating the energy wasted in shipping ink and toner cartridges back and forth to Southeast Asia for remanufacturing.
# 1 plastic - PETE (also know as PET)	Larimer County expanded their plastic recycling program to include more plastics in June of 2008. Plastics accepted in this program include: Narrow-necked containers, #1 and #2; caps removed, any container stamped #3 through #7 (except those listed under "Excludes column-->"), Wide-mouth containers stamped #1 through #7 (e.g., butter/cottage cheese tubs, ect....); snap-on lids are okay, yogurt containers stamped #1 through #7; snap-on lids are okay, clear clamshells (e.g., sandwich or cookie containers from the deli or bakery), stamped #1 through #7, personal care/prescription bottles stamped #1 through #7, pails stamped #1 through #7; snap-on lids are okay, flower and garden pots stamped #1 through #7, #7 Nalgene bottles	Frozen entrée microwave trays, Food trays or party platters even if stamped with #1-#7, Film (e.g., shrink wrap, Saran wrap, etc.), Plastic bags, Automotive chemical containers including motor oil and anti-freeze bottles, Pesticide containers, Styrofoam containers, #5 - #6 and #7 compostable bottles or cups (these will be marked "compostable" by the manufacturer). No containers over 2 1/2 gallons.	Curbside recycling bins or City Recycling Drop-off Facility located at 1702 Riverside Avenue	Commingled is delivered to the Larimer County Recycling Center where they are compacted into semi-trailers and shipped to a materials recovery facility in Denver. There, a state-of-the-art sorting machine, along with some manual labor, separates the various types of recyclables and bales them for their journeys to remanufacturing plants, where they're made into new products.	Narrow mouthed #1 and #2 plastic items may be sold to domestic remanufacturers. However it is important to note that most other plastics (wide mouth #1 and #2 and #3-7 plastics) are sent over seas to be recycled (China). Also important to note, most plastic that is recycled is <u>down cycled</u> . Down cycling means they are not recycled into another container, instead are recycled into an item that cannot be recycled again (like carpet, toys, large containers, lawn furniture, etc.).

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<p>#2 plastic - HDPE (high density polyethylene)</p> <p>Examples of #2 plastics are: milk and water bottles, laundry detergent bottles, toys, trash and retail bags, yogurt and butter tubs and cereal box liners.</p>	<p>Larimer County expanded their plastic recycling program to include more plastics in June of 2008. Plastics accepted in this program include:</p> <p>Narrow-necked containers, #1 and #2; caps removed, any container stamped #3 through #7 (except those listed under "Excludes column->"), Wide-mouth containers stamped #1 through #7 (e.g., butter/cottage cheese tubs, ect....); snap-on lids are okay, yogurt containers stamped #1 through #7; snap-on lids are okay, clear clamshells (e.g., sandwich or cookie containers from the deli or bakery), stamped #1 through #7, personal care/prescription bottles stamped #1 through #7, pails stamped #1 through #7; snap-on lids are okay, flower and garden pots stamped #1 through #7, #7 Nalgene bottles</p>	<p>Frozen entrée microwave trays, Food trays or party platters even if stamped with #1-#7, Film (e.g., shrink wrap, Saran wrap, etc.), Plastic bags, Automotive chemical containers including motor oil and anti-freeze bottles, Pesticide containers, Styrofoam containers, #5 - #6 and #7 compostable bottles or cups (these will be marked "compostable" by the manufacturer).</p> <p>No containers over 2 1/2 gallons.</p>	<p>Curbside recycling bins or City Recycling Drop-off Facility located at 1702 Riverside Avenue</p>	<p>Commingled is delivered to the Larimer County Recycling Center where they are compacted into semi-trailers and shipped to a materials recovery facility in Denver. There, a state-of-the-art sorting machine, along with some manual labor, separates the various types of recyclables and bales them for their journeys to remanufacturing plants, where they're made into new products.</p>	<p>Narrow mouthed #1 and #2 plastic items may be sold to domestic remanufacturers. However most other plastics (wide mouth #1 and #2 and #3-7 plastics) are sent over seas to be recycled (China).</p> <p>Also important to note, most plastic that is recycled is down cycled. Down cycling means they are not recycled into another container, instead are recycled into an item that cannot be recycled again (like carpet, toys, large containers, lawn furniture, etc.)</p>
<p>#3 plastic - PVC (vinyl/polyvinyl chloride)</p> <p>Examples of #3 plastics are: Pipe, meat wrap, cooking oil bottles, clear food packaging, shampoo bottles, medical tubing, wire and cable insulation.</p>	<p>Larimer County expanded their plastic recycling program to include more plastics in June of 2008. Plastics accepted in this program include:</p> <p>Narrow-necked containers, #1 and #2; caps removed, any container stamped #3 through #7 (except those listed under "Excludes column->"), Wide-mouth containers stamped #1 through #7 (e.g., butter/cottage cheese tubs, ect....); snap-on lids are okay, yogurt containers stamped #1 through #7; snap-on lids are okay, clear clamshells (e.g., sandwich or cookie containers from the deli or bakery), stamped #1 through #7, personal care/prescription bottles stamped #1 through #7, pails stamped #1 through #7; snap-on lids are okay, flower and garden pots stamped #1 through #7, #7 Nalgene bottles</p>	<p>Frozen entrée microwave trays, Food trays or party platters even if stamped with #1-#7, Film (e.g., shrink wrap, Saran wrap, etc.), Plastic bags, Automotive chemical containers including motor oil and anti-freeze bottles, Pesticide containers, Styrofoam containers, #5 - #6 and #7 compostable bottles or cups (these will be marked "compostable" by the manufacturer).</p> <p>No containers over 2 1/2 gallons.</p>	<p>Curbside recycling bins or City Recycling Drop-off Facility located at 1702 Riverside Avenue</p>	<p>Commingled is delivered to the Larimer County Recycling Center where they are compacted into semi-trailers and shipped to a materials recovery facility in Denver. There, a state-of-the-art sorting machine, along with some manual labor, separates the various types of recyclables and bales them for their journeys to remanufacturing plants, where they're made into new products.</p>	<p>Narrow mouthed #1 and #2 plastic items may be sold to domestic remanufacturers. However most other plastics (wide mouth #1 and #2 and #3-7 plastics) are sent over seas to be recycled (China).</p> <p>Also important to note, most plastic that is recycled is down cycled. Down cycling means they are not recycled into another container, instead are recycled into an item that cannot be recycled again (like carpet, toys, large containers, lawn furniture, etc.)</p>
<p>#4 plastic - Grocery bags - LDPE (low density polyethylene)</p>	<p>Grocery bags, dry cleaning bags and plastic newspaper wrappers.</p> <p>Bags should be clean, dry and empty.</p>	<p>#4 plastic that are not in the shape of a plastic bag.</p>	<p>Click here for a list plastic bag recyclers in Fort Collins.</p>	<p>Our plastic bags are delivered to Waste Not where they are send to a domestic manufacture where they are made into building supplies like joint guards.</p>	<p>Disposable plastic baggies can take 1,000 years to decompose. Use cloth bags when ever possible.</p>

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#5 plastic - PP (polypropylene)	<p>Larimer County expanded their plastic recycling program to include more plastics in June of 2008. Plastics accepted in this program include:</p> <p>Narrow-necked containers, #1 and #2; caps removed, any container stamped #3 through #7 (except those listed under "Excludes column-->"), Wide-mouth containers stamped #1 through #7 (e.g., butter/cottage cheese tubs, ect....); snap-on lids are okay, yogurt containers stamped #1 through #7; snap-on lids are okay, clear clamshells (e.g., sandwich or cookie containers from the deli or bakery), stamped #1 through #7, personal care/prescription bottles stamped #1 through #7, pails stamped #1 through #7; snap-on lids are okay, flower and garden pots stamped #1 through #7, #7 Nalgene bottles</p>	<p>Frozen entrée microwave trays, Food trays or party platters even if stamped with #1-#7, Film (e.g., shrink wrap, Saran wrap, etc.), Plastic bags, Automotive chemical containers including motor oil and anti-freeze bottles, Pesticide containers, Styrofoam containers, #5 - #6 and #7 compostable bottles or cups (these will be marked "compostable" by the manufacturer).</p> <p>No containers over 2 1/2 gallons.</p>	<p>Curbside recycling bins or City Recycling Drop-off Facility located at 1702 Riverside Avenue</p>	<p>Commingled is delivered to the Larimer County Recycling Center where they are compacted into semi-trailers and shipped to a materials recovery facility in Denver. There, a state-of-the-art sorting machine, along with some manual labor, separates the various types of recyclables and bales them for their journeys to remanufacturing plants, where they're made into new products.</p>	<p>Narrow mouthed #1 and #2 plastic items may be sold to domestic remanufacturers. However most other plastics (wide mouth #1 and #2 and #3-7 plastics) are sent over seas to be recycled (China).</p> <p>Also important to note, most plastic that is recycled is down cycled. Down cycling means they are not recycled into another container, instead are recycled into an item that cannot be recycled again (like carpet, toys, large containers, lawn furniture, etc.)</p>
#6 plastic - PS (polystyrene)	<p>Some peanuts and block Styrofoam can be recycled.</p>	<p>Coffee cups, molded food containers, clamshells, egg cartons and to-go containers.</p>	<p>There are no recycling options for Styrofoam used as food packaging or molded!</p> <p>Styrofoam peanuts can be recycled at the following....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The UPS Store, -Relay Mail -Colorado Frame Manufacturing, Inc. 	<p>Styrofoam peanuts are reused for shipping.</p> <p>Block Styrofoam is shredded and reformed.</p>	<p>Due to health codes, Styrofoam that has touched food or beverage cannot be recycled. It is always land filled.</p> <p>Reduce your Styrofoam use whenever possible.</p>
#7 plastic - Other plastics	<p>Larimer County expanded their plastic recycling program to include more plastics in June of 2008. Plastics accepted in this program include:</p> <p>Narrow-necked containers, #1 and #2; caps removed, any container stamped #3 through #7 (except those listed under "Excludes column-->"), Wide-mouth containers stamped #1 through #7 (e.g., butter/cottage cheese tubs, ect....); snap-on lids are okay, yogurt containers stamped #1 through #7; snap-on lids are okay, clear clamshells (e.g., sandwich or cookie containers from the deli or bakery), stamped #1 through #7, personal care/prescription bottles stamped #1 through #7, pails stamped #1 through #7; snap-on lids are okay, flower and garden pots stamped #1 through #7, #7 Nalgene bottles</p>	<p>Frozen entrée microwave trays, Food trays or party platters even if stamped with #1-#7, Film (e.g., shrink wrap, Saran wrap, etc.), Plastic bags, Automotive chemical containers including motor oil and anti-freeze bottles, Pesticide containers, Styrofoam containers, #5 - #6 and #7 compostable bottles or cups (these will be marked "compostable" by the manufacturer).</p> <p>No containers over 2 1/2 gallons.</p>	<p>Curbside recycling bins or City Recycling Drop-off Facility located at 1702 Riverside Avenue</p>	<p>Commingled is delivered to the Larimer County Recycling Center where they are compacted into semi-trailers and shipped to a materials recovery facility in Denver. There, a state-of-the-art sorting machine, along with some manual labor, separates the various types of recyclables and bales them for their journeys to remanufacturing plants, where they're made into new products.</p>	<p>Narrow mouthed #1 and #2 plastic items may be sold to domestic remanufacturers. However most other plastics (wide mouth #1 and #2 and #3-7 plastics) are sent over seas to be recycled (China).</p> <p>Also important to note, most plastic that is recycled is down cycled. Down cycling means they are not recycled into another container, instead are recycled into an item that cannot be recycled again (like carpet, toys, large containers, lawn furniture, etc.)</p>

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Wood	Wood pallets, some furniture, wood pieces, boards, etc... All wood must have all trash, plastic and metal attachments.	Wood with metal or plastic attachments. Wood cannot have heavy paint or plastic coating.	Click here for a list of wood recycling options.	Wood can reused or can be ground down to be used for compost.	It is very important to not contaminate the wood recycling bins off with trash, plastics, metals or any other items other than wood.
PLA - Corn Resin (polylactic acid)	All bio-plastics - cups, containers, plates and utensils	Organic materials - compost (see compost section below)	PLA should be sent to a industrial composter! Contact your waste disposal vendor or A1 Organics to discuss easiest way to dispose of PLA.	PLA will be composted and turned into a nutrient rich fertilizer	PLA can only be broken down in hot vessel composter. PLA must be in a temperature of 104F for at least 10 days before it can be completely broken down.
Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs	All CFLs	No exclusions at this time.	Click here for a list of CFL recyclers.	CFLs should be properly disposed of as they contain hazardous chemicals.	If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars.
Organic Compost	Organic materials - for example food scraps, coffee grounds and lawn clippings.	If home composting it is recommended to avoid putting meat, dairy, and PLA in your compost bin. No need to sort the above items out if sending compost to industrial compost facility.	Click here to go to City of Fort Collins compost page.	Items will be composted and turned into a nutrient rich fertilizer	Kitchen scraps and plant matter in the landfill are forced to break down in an anaerobic environment (without oxygen). This environment allows them to release methane into the atmosphere –methane is a greenhouse gas with 23 times the impact of carbon dioxide. By composting you create a nutrient rich fertilizer and carbon is captured in the soil for the long term, lowering carbon emissions.

Compatibility Report for NBB Recycling Guild.xls
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Minor loss of fidelity

of occurrences

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