

House to Curb: Setting Yourself Up for Recycling Success

What goes in your curb cart? See our previous handout at <http://tiny.cc/wpatcapt>.

While recycling is the right thing to do, recycling right is equally important! This handout will help you sort materials correctly and provide ideas for getting your recyclables from inside your home out to the cart without the use of plastic bags. (Plastic bags are not allowed in the recycle cart, and all materials should be loose.)

Option 1: Set-up a Central Location

If you have space, a centralized location with separate containers for recyclables might work for you. Simply sort items into a) what is accepted in the tan curbside “commingle” cart and b) trash, or consider more bins for items that must be recycled elsewhere (e.g., Republic Services Depot or First Alternative Co-op Recycling Center). For easy identification, use containers of different colors and/or label them with text or images.



Option 2: Set-up Next to Trash in High Use Rooms



Adding a recycling bin to all or most rooms makes recycling easier for everyone at your house. In the bathroom, try adding a small bin or hanging an empty reusable bag on the door. In other rooms, use a basket, hang a bag in a closet, or repurpose a plastic box or bucket. It might be helpful to mark the container with a recycling symbol as a reminder. Whatever you use, your goal is to make recycling convenient and easy for all to do!

Option 3: Transport to Cart by Hand

If your home has few rooms or you produce little recycling, locate your cart right outside the door leading to your garage, carport, or patio. Simply hand carry individual items outside and pitch them into the cart.



How to Decide What's Right for You

Whatever method you choose, make sure it's *convenient* for your household. Here are some questions to consider:

- 1. Where am I generating recycling in the house?**
 - » Tip: Take a look in the trash cans in your house to see where recyclable material is being thrown away.
- 2. How large does the bin need to be?**
 - » Tip: Pay attention to how much recycling you produce (including what you currently throw away).
- 3. Do I already have a container that I can use to collect recycling or do I need to buy something?**
- 4. Can I place trash and recycling side by side to make sorting easier?**
- 5. Do I prefer a bin with a lid or will that deter me from using it?**
- 6. Will I need to line the bin with a bag?**
 - » Tip: If you choose to use a bag for cleanliness or transport, remember that plastic bags are not accepted in your curb cart. You can recycle plastic through other means if it's clean; otherwise, throw it away.
- 7. Who is taking recycling to the big cart and what are their preferences?**
 - » Tip: Read this handout aloud with people in your household, and talk about what works for them!