

# RECYCLING CHEAT SHEET



Learn more

## RECYCLABLE

### PLASTICS

*\*Keep caps on plastic beverage containers*

- Plastics number 1 (PET) as bottles or clamshells
- Plastics numbers 2 (HDPE)
- Plastics numbers 5 (PP)
- Recyclable plastics include, but are not limited to:
  - Beverage & detergent jugs
  - Food containers
  - Soda, juice, & water bottles



### METALS

- Aluminum foil & pie tins (clean)
- Scrap metal
- Steel cans, dishware, etc.
- Tin & aluminum cans

### PAPER (clean & dry)

- Envelopes
- File folders (paper only)
- Junk mail & magazines
- Newspaper
- Paper (white & mixed color)
- Paper grocery bags
- Telephone books
- Acceptable (but may not be recycled)
  - Cereal boxes (no plastic insert)
  - Egg cartons (paper only & clean)
  - Frozen food boxes
  - Soup, milk, & juice cartons



### CARDBOARD (or similar)

- Cardboard & corrugated boxes
- Pizza boxes (clean sections only)

### GLASS

*\*No window glass, porcelain, or non-food related glass. Please remove caps/lids.*

- Amber, green, & mixed-color glass
- Clear food glass jars
- Soda, tea, & liquor bottles

**No Liquids or Food In Recyclables**

## LANDFILL

### FOOD WRAPPERS/CONTAINERS

- Candy & protein bar wrappers
- Chip bags
- Disposable coffee cups & lids
- Juice & food pouches
- Bags with a mix of metal & plastic



### GLASS/PORCELAIN

- Dishware
- Flower pots
- Incandescent light bulbs
- Porcelain
- Vases & glass figurines
- Window glass



### PAPER

- All receipts
- Facial tissue, toilet paper, or wipes
- Gift wrap with plastic or metal
- Hardback books
- Laminated or plastic coated paper
- Padded or Tyvek-type envelopes
- Photographs

### PLASTICS

- All plastics #3 & #6 (hard & foam)
- All black plastics
- Plastic toys
- Plastic bags, dry cleaning bags, cellophane, & bubble wrap
- Small plastics (utensils, straws, loose caps, & anything less than 4 inches)
- Garden hoses & plastic tarps
- Latex and plastic gloves
- Empty motor oil



### MISC

- Disposable diapers
- Empty aerosol cans
- Pet waste
- Produce stickers
- Lint or unusable clothing & fabric
- All tea bags & tea bag wrappers
- Menstrual products
- Hard shells (e.g. clams, mussels, & oysters)

## COMPOSTABLES

### GREEN WASTE

- Grass clippings
- Flower & hedge trimmings
- Leaves & branches
- Lumber, scrap wood, & plywood types (not painted or treated)
- Weeds



### FOOD SCRAPS

*Food Scraps includes putrescible matter produced from human or animal food production, preparation, & consumption activities. No produce stickers.*

- Bread, rice, & pasta
- Cheese & dairy
- Coffee filters & grounds
- Flowers & herbs
- Fruits & vegetables
- Meat, bones, poultry, seafood, & soft shells (e.g. lobster, crab, & shrimp)



### FOOD-SOILED PAPER

*\*Must be 100% fiber-based. NO materials with bio-plastic, wax, or petroleum-based coating, liner, or laminate.*

- Egg cartons (paper)
- Food-stained paper
- Paper napkins & kitchen towels
- Pizza boxes
- Plates
- Straws (100% plant-fiber)
- Stir sticks (edible or wooden)
- To-go boxes (no coating)
- Utensils (fiber-based or wooden)

Updated May 2026. Download this reference list and the rest of our signage and resources at [LA.AthensServices.com](http://LA.AthensServices.com).

# HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

Hazardous material and electronic waste cannot be disposed of in your recycling, organics and/or trash containers, nor in the environment, down drains, and/or gutters. The following list includes the most common Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) items.

**Multi-Family Residents:** For a complete list of acceptable items, drop-off locations, and more information for multi-family residents visit [LACitySan.org/SafeCenters](http://LACitySan.org/SafeCenters).

**Businesses:** The City of Los Angeles S.A.F.E. Collection Centers accepts small business quantities by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call 310-387-1071 or email [4HCESQG@cleanharbors.com](mailto:4HCESQG@cleanharbors.com). Large businesses can schedule a hazardous or electronic waste collection, by calling Athens' Customer Service at (888) 336-6100 or visiting [AthensServices.com/Customer-Service](http://AthensServices.com/Customer-Service).

## Automotive Products

- Carburetor & fuel injection cleaners
- Air conditioning refrigerants
- Transmission & brake fluid
- Automotive batteries
- Starter fluids
- Motor oil & filters
- Fuel additives
- Antifreeze



## Other Flammable Products

- Propane tanks & other compressed gas cylinders
- Kerosene
- Home heating oil
- Diesel fuel
- Gas/oil mix
- Lighter fluid



## Workshop/Painting Supplies

- Adhesives & glues
- Furniture strippers
- Oil or enamel based paint
- Stains & finishes
- Paint thinners & turpentine
- Paint strippers & removers
- Photographic chemicals
- Fixatives & other solvents



## Cleaning Products

- Wood/metal cleaners & polishes
- Tub, tile, & shower cleaners
- Drain cleaners
- Oven cleaners
- Toilet cleaners
- Bleach (laundry)
- Pool chemicals



## Indoor Pesticides

- Ant sprays & baits
- Cockroach sprays & baits
- Flea repellents & shampoos
- Bug sprays
- Houseplant insecticides
- Moth repellents
- Mouse/rat poisons & baits



## Miscellaneous

- Batteries
- Mercury thermostats & thermometers
- Fluorescent light bulbs & tubes
- LED lights
- E-cigarettes & vape pens
- Driveway sealer



## Lawn & Garden Products

- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Fungicides/wood preservatives



## Electronics & Small Appliances

- Cell phone & tablets
- Computer monitors, towers, & laptops
- Desktop, printer, & scanner
- DVD, VCR, & music players
- Keyboard, mouse, & external hard drive
- Microwaves & small appliances
- TVs & gaming consoles
- Related cords



## MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Medication includes:

- Over-the-counter & prescription medications
- Medicated lotions & ointments
- Sharps, needles, & lancets (if in FDA approved, rigid, puncture-resistant container)
- Pet medications
- Schedule II - V controlled substances

Scan the QR code to learn more about medication preparation and find free disposal sites.



## HOW TO HANDLE BATTERIES



**It is illegal to place batteries in your waste bins.** Batteries should be disposed of as hazardous waste. They can spark fires or create an unsafe environment for waste workers. If properly collected, battery recyclers can repurpose the metal.

### Storage tips to avoid short-circuiting and fires:

- Place a piece of non-conductive tape or duct-tape on the ends. **Do not cover the brand name or chemistry of the battery.**
- Store batteries in a container that does not conduct electricity (like plastic, cardboard, or glass).