



CITY OF FORT WAYNE recycling MATTERS

SUMMER 2017

What do I do with my plastic bags?

Plastic film packaging is recyclable — just not in your curbside recycle cart! Chances are, a lot of plastic film comes into your home. Film packaging includes plastic grocery, shopping, and produce bags; bread, sandwich, and food storage bags; newspaper sleeves; dry-cleaning bags; “air pillows” used to cushion shipments, bubble wrap, and Tyvek envelopes; case wraps from cases of water, toilet paper, and paper towels; and wraps from around furniture and electronics.

All of these materials are recyclable. However, when they end up in curbside recycling carts, they cause problems. First, they are lightweight and tend to blow out as the carts are lifted and emptied. Second, at the materials recovery facility, plastic bags get caught in conveyor belts and other equipment. Often the entire sorting line has to be shut down to remove tangled plastic film. So, please — don’t put your recyclables into plastic bags, don’t put loose plastic bags or film into the cart, and don’t toss in bundled plastic film.

Instead, recycle your plastic film and bags at a local grocery store or other retailer that provides a bin. Most Kroger, Lowe’s, Meijer, Target, and Walmart stores have bins, which are normally located near the front entrance of the store. If you don’t see a bin, ask Customer Service about bag recycling. Film plastic is also accepted at Quincy Recycling in New Haven and Recycle Logic in Fort Wayne. Because the plastic film accepted at these locations is clean and uncontaminated, it can be turned into new bags, pallets, containers, crates, pipe, and composite lumber. In fact, many bags are recycled at the Hilex Poly Bag Recycling Center in North Vernon, Indiana.

Remember — remove products, receipts, and crumbs before you drop off your bags for recycling!

Plastic bags create significant slow downs at materials recovery facilities where recycling is sorted. The bags get caught in the rapidly moving, spinning equipment. Eventually, the sorting line has to be shut down so that workers can crawl up and cut away the tangled plastic. There is a simple solution to this — keep bags OUT of your curbside recycle cart!



By carrying reusable shopping bags, you’ll reduce the number of plastic bags that come into your home and need to be dropped off for recycling.

RECYCLE IT! Plastic film is generally not collected in curbside recycling, but it can be recycled at 18,000 participating stores.

Produce Bags	Plastic Shipping Envelopes	Bread Bags	Dry Cleaning Bags	Case Wrap
Air Pillows	Newspaper Bags	Food Storage Bags	Product Overwrap	Bubble Wrap

and Carryout Bags

Also look for any packaging with this How2Recycle label

Find drop-off locations at PlasticFilmRecycling.org

CITY OF FORT WAYNE recycling

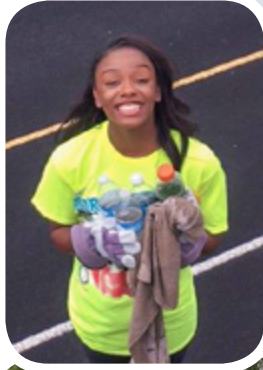
www.RecycleFortWayne.org



Volunteers were out in force for the Great American Cleanup on Saturday, May 20! This year, 5,232 volunteers contributed 18,230 hours to cleaning up our City during this one-day event. Here is what you accomplished:

- 187,000 pounds of litter and debris were collected.
- 1,026 illegally dumped tires were recycled.
- 79 miles of roads, streets, and highways were cleaned or beautified.
- 1,423 acres of parks and public lands were cleaned.
- 40 miles of hiking, biking, and nature trails were cleaned.
- 27 miles of river banks were cleaned.

Thank you to everyone who participated!



A special thanks to our 2017 sponsors!



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Simple steps to composting success



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You can make your own compost in the backyard. The ingredients you'll need are readily available — “green” and “brown” organic waste, water, and air. After you've mixed these ingredients and given them some time to cook, you'll have a finished compost that will make a nutritious amendment for your soil. Follow these steps to create your own compost:

1. Choose a level area in your yard. You don't want your compost bin to be in the way, but you don't want it too far away from your source of organic material, either. You'll need at least a 3- by 5-foot area to give your bin room to breathe and yourself room to work.
2. Select a spot that is out of direct sunlight most of the day.
3. Make sure that you have access to water nearby and a hose that will reach the spot.
4. Build your own bin, or purchase a commercial compost bin. The size and type will depend on how much organic material you have available and how fast you want your compost to cook.
5. Mix “brown” yard waste, such as dry leaves and dead plants, with “green” organic waste, such as grass clippings and fruit and vegetable scraps. You'll want about half “green” and half “brown” materials. If you are grasscycling most of your lawn clippings, coffee grounds and tea leaves are a good “green” organic material (even though they are colored brown); coffee grounds are a source of nitrogen, as are other “greens.” Mix the material as you fill your compost bin. Be sure that fruit and vegetable scraps are at least 10 inches below the surface of the pile — this will keep unwanted animal visitors away. (Don't put any meats or dairy products in a backyard compost bin or pile.)
6. Chop larger waste, such as twigs, into smaller pieces. You can chop this material manually using trimmers or loppers, or you can run twigs and branches through a chipper/shredder. (You could share a chipper/shredder with your neighbors or rent one.) Chopping this woody waste will help it rot more quickly.
7. Turn or stir the compost at least every other week. Use a pitchfork, a shovel, or a compost turner. Be sure that the material is thoroughly mixed each time you turn it. The more often you turn your pile, the more quickly your material will decompose.
8. Add water if your pile becomes dry. Mix the water evenly through the material. During most weather conditions, your pile should be moist but not soaking wet. If your pile becomes soggy during wet weather, turn and mix the material to add air and help dry it out. A tarp can help keep your composting materials from getting too wet during heavy rains.
9. Give your compost up to six months to cook and cure. For faster compost, turn the pile more often. When the waste has become dark and crumbly, you have compost!
10. Spread the compost as mulch around trees or under bushes, mix it into your garden soil, or combine it with soil or sand to make a great potting soil.

For more information, download our Backyard Composting guide at www.cityoffortwayne.org/images/stories/Composting_fact_sheet_-_final_-_June_2017.pdf.



Credit: maerzkind / iStock | Getty Images Plus

DO compost these:

- Yard waste, such as leaves, grass clippings, chipped wood, and wood shavings
- Kitchen waste, such as coffee grounds, tea leaves, and fruit and vegetable scraps
- Shredded cardboard and paper
- Horse, cow, or pig manure

DON'T put these in the pile:

- Large twigs or limbs
- Meat scraps and kitchen grease
- Dairy products and eggs
- Dog or cat waste

NO grass clippings in your recycle cart!

No backyard?

Drop off compostable materials at a Fort Wayne/Allen County community composting facility:

City Utilities' Bio-Solids, Lime & Yard Waste Recycling Site
6202 Lake Avenue
(260) 749-8040

Republic Services
6231 MacBeth Road
(260) 442-3174



At last year's Tox-Away Day, the Allen County Solid Waste Management District collected and safely disposed of 39,044 pounds of hazardous waste, 4,953 pounds of automotive fluids, and 5,517 pounds of household and automotive batteries from 1,083 households.

Tox-Away Day

Tox-Away Day will be held on Saturday, September 9, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Between now and then, box your chemicals and store them in a safe place, out of reach of children and away from direct sunlight. Do not mix products together or remove labels. Leave all products in their original containers. This event is open to Allen County residents only, which includes all residents of Fort Wayne. Some fees may apply. For more information about Tox-Away Day, visit www.acwastewatcher.org/household-hazardous-waste/tox-away-day.

Motor oil can be recycled year-round at several local businesses. For a list, visit www.acwastewatcher.org/recycling-category/?category=5.

Remember — latex paint is not hazardous waste. However, it must be dried out before you place the cans into your garbage cart. NO latex paint is accepted at Tox-Away Day!

Recycle at your summer and fall events!

The City of Fort Wayne wants to help you recycle at festivals, fundraisers, concerts, 5Ks, and more. We have 50 recycling containers that organizations can borrow for FREE. The containers hang conveniently on the side of garbage carts. (Garbage carts are NOT provided.) We supply the recycling bags, each of which will hold about 225-250 bottles and cans.

Organizations that borrow the bins are responsible for picking up and returning the bins to the City and must replace any lost, stolen, or damaged containers. To reserve recycling containers, you must register at least one week prior to your event. The containers are promised to local events on a first-come, first-served basis, so get your request in as early as possible.

For more information, visit www.cityoffortwayne.org/borrowabin. If you have questions, please email borrowabin@cityoffortwayne.org or call 311.



Tire Amnesty Day

If you have old tires to dispose, recycle them at the Allen County Solid Waste Management District's Tire Amnesty Day on Saturday, October 7, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Watch for more details at www.acwastewatcher.org/news-and-events/tire-amnesty-day.

Last year, the District recycled 131 tons of used tires, which includes those dropped off by residents at Tire Amnesty Day.

Credit: NextTier / iStock / Getty Images Plus



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