

# The Full Circle

Current news and helpful tips from Carmel Utilities



TRASH & RECYCLING EDITION

City of **Carmel Utilities**



## PLASTIC

While hard plastic containers like water bottles, milk jugs, and detergent containers can be put in your recycling container, flexible plastics like grocery bags, bubble wrap and Styrofoam require special handling and can't be recycled curbside.

- Lids are too small to recycle by themselves so put them on the containers or throw them away.
- If you can poke your finger through the plastic, it doesn't belong in your recycling container.
- Many local grocery and merchandise stores have plastic bag recycling deposit stations. These bags go to specialized facilities equipped to recycle plastic bags. It is suggested that you utilize these stations.

## METAL CANS

Before recycling food and drink cans, remove paper or plastic labels and clean out any residual materials.

- Some metal cans have an insulated coating that might not be recyclable. When in doubt, throw it out!
- Recyclables don't need to be thoroughly washed, but they do need to be dry so they don't contaminate other items.

## Recycling Basics

The recycling commodities market has changed. China is no longer processing other countries' recycling and the U.S. recycling processing markets are very selective on the quality of the material they will accept. We all have to work together to make the recycling product uncontaminated and as easy to process as possible. Unfortunately contaminated recycling often ends up in a landfill.

## PAPER & CARDBOARD

Flattened cardboard, newspaper, magazines, office paper and common mail can be recycled as long as they are not contaminated by food, liquid or waste.

- Break down cardboard boxes; it makes them easier to process and leaves more room for other recyclables.
- Paper can't be recycled if it's mixed with other materials. Remove the bubble wrap or plastic windows before recycling padded packaging or security envelopes.





**Never Place these contaminants in the recycling container**

- Plastic Bags & Wrappers
- Styrofoam
- Greasy Pizza Boxes
- Food
- Electronics & Batteries
- Yard Waste
- Diapers
- Soiled paper
- Clothing & Shoes
- Tools
- Construction Waste
- Medical items
- Scrap Metal



**By the Numbers**

**29,400**

**Households Serviced**

**180,889**

**Tons of Trash**

**42,438**

**Tons of Recycling**



*Total materials collected since the start of the program in January 2012.*

**Empty. Clean. Dry.**



**No Soiled or Wet Materials**

One dirty item can contaminate an entire truckload, so make sure recyclables are empty, clean and dry.

- Once cardboard or paper comes into contact with food or liquid, it can no longer be recycled.
- Never allow more than one teaspoon of liquid to remain in a recyclable.



**Keep it Loose**

Remember to never put your recyclables in containers or bags

- Don't Bag or Contain
- Never bag or bundle your recyclables. Items should be placed in the container individually.
- Plastic bags can get caught in the machinery causing delays and damage to equipment.
- Bundled recyclables can't be sorted at the facility so all of it ends up in a landfill.



**No Connected or Mixed Materials**

When two or more materials are connected, they cannot be recycled as is, even if they're all recyclable.

- If all the mixed materials are recyclable, like a plastic package with a paper insert, separate the items and put them in your container individually.
- If only part of the mixed material is recyclable, like a window envelope, separate the plastic portion from the paper and recycle the paper.

**Christmas Tree Pick-up**

The City trash program includes pick-up of one Christmas tree per home. We collect Christmas trees on your regularly scheduled collection days during the first two weeks of January.

- Trees must be cut in sections 4 feet or less. If the tree section is longer than 4 feet, it will not fit into the cage at the top of the CNG trucks.
- Cut all trees taller than four feet in half.
- Remove all tree bags, ornaments, tinsel and stands.



**Holiday Reminder**

Trash collection will not pick up on the following holidays. Service will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week following the holiday.

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Day

New Years Day

Memorial Day

Fourth of July

Labor Day



# Rule of Thumb

Never recycle anything smaller than a credit card

When it comes to recycling, size actually does matter. If the item is too small to go through the sorting equipment, it can get jammed in the machinery and shut down operations for extensive periods of time. So be sure to put things that are smaller than a credit card – like coffee pods and loose lids, in the trash.



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REPUBLIC SERVICES

## Residential Trash & Recycling Helpful Tips

### Yard Waste

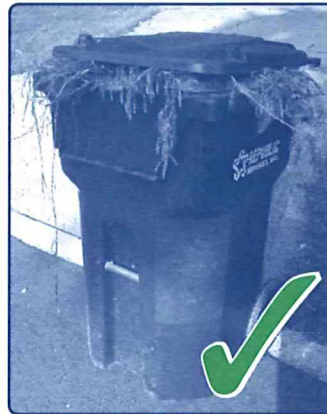
- Please place as much yard waste as possible into the cart. It is permissible for a small amount of yard waste to stick out of the cart.
- Consider adding a second trash cart for free or a third cart for \$5 per month for ongoing waste disposal needs.
- During the months of April and May as well as October 15 through December 15 each home is allowed up to 20 bags/bundles of yard waste per week free of charge.
- Large branches such as shown in the picture must be cut into shorter sections and tied into bundles.
- Bulky landscape waste pick-up is available upon request. \$10 for up to 8 cubic yards. Debris needs to be at the curb and cut in lengths less than 8 feet. Call 317-917-7300 to schedule pick-up.

### What if I have a bag that won't fit inside with the lid down?

- Fill your trash cart completely before leaving bagged waste outside of the cart.
- Close the lid then place the bag on top of the tote.
- Do not place the bag beside the tote on the ground.

### Does the lid have to close all the way?

- As long as the top covers the bags inside and nothing is falling out, it is acceptable.
- Items of any type longer than four feet in length must be cut down in order to fit in the top of the CNG trucks.





**Stop treating us  
like garbage.**

**Recycling  
is good for  
the environment  
and our local  
economy.**



**Learn what you can do at home.**

**All of the following can be co-mingled in your Republic recycling cart.**

- Clean Aluminum Foil • Aluminum • Tin & Steel Cans • Glass Jars**
- Plastic Bottles Marked 1-7 • Bottles • Cardboard • Boxboard • Brown Paper Bags**
- Office Paper • Manila Folders (staples are okay)**

## **Reduce Reuse Recycle**

Did you know that disposable plastic shopping bags can be taken back to the store where they were purchased? Most stores return the bags to recycling facilities with specialized equipment that is most efficient in recycling plastic bags.

**But better than recycling....use a reusable shopping bag!**