



# GUIDE TO RECYCLING, YARD WASTE, AND TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES 2023



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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# ABOUT THE RESOURCE RECOVERY DIVISION



The City's Resource Recovery Division staff and contractors are part of a larger team that works 24 hours a day, seven days a week to keep our community livable, green and prospering. Please help the City sustainably recover resources by following the Waste Management Hierarchy through Reduce, Reuse and Recycle! Visit [alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery](http://alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery) to learn more.

## TRANSLATIONS

For a Spanish or Amharic version of this Guide, please visit: [alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery](http://alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery)

Para leer esta guía en español, visite nuestro sitio web o use su teléfono para escanear el código QR.



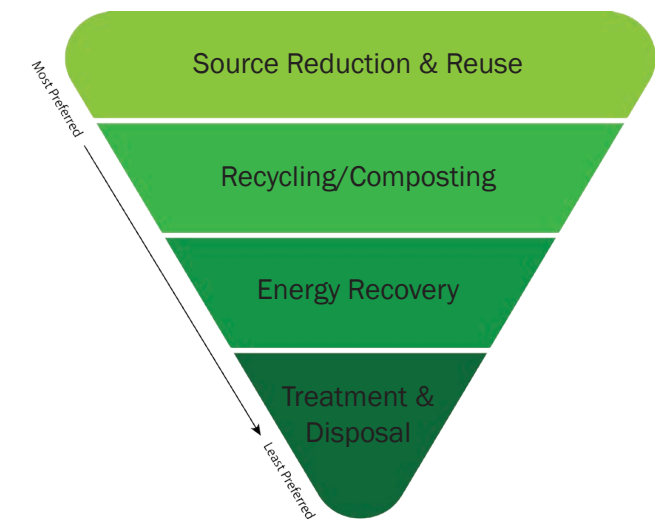
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# WasteSmart

ECO-CITY ALEXANDRIA

## WASTE MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Waste Management Hierarchy



# WEEKLY COLLECTION SERVICES

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Alexandria residents living in detached, single-family homes, duplexes, and some townhouses with four or fewer units are required users of this fee-based service. Commercial properties and condominium complexes are not required users, but may participate at the City's discretion for a fee.

## HOW, WHEN, WHERE

### How do I prepare my waste for collection?

- **Recyclables** should be placed **loosely** in a blue City-provided recycling container **\*NO PLASTIC BAGS**
- Yard waste should be placed in a customer-provided reusable rigid container or paper yard waste bag (purchased at grocery and hardware stores)
- Trash should be bagged and placed in a City-provided container.

### When do I put out my waste for collection?

Each customer is assigned a collection day depending on their location in the City. Contact Alex311 or visit [alexandriava.gov/RefuseCollection](http://alexandriava.gov/RefuseCollection) for your collection day. Trash, recycling, and yard waste must be set out no earlier than 5 p.m. the day prior and no later than 6 a.m. the morning of collection. Collection crews operate between the hours of 7 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri. except during the summer when collection starts at 6 a.m. In weeks containing a holiday, your collection may slide a day.

### Where do I place my waste for collection?

For most residents, collection occurs in the public right of-way at the front of the house, although some residents receive alley collection. If you are unsure about where to place your trash for collection, contact Alex311. Collection containers are to be removed from public property by 7 p.m. on your service day.



### YOU MISSED MY COLLECTION!

Your preparation of material for collection is critical for us to recover resources, ensure safe collection, and leave the area neat and clean. If your material is not collected by the end of the day, check for a tag that explains why the City could not collect.



### COMMON PROBLEMS INCLUDE

- Collection container, bag, or item is too heavy.
- Item is longer than 4 feet, such as carpet or lumber.
- Contains unacceptable items such as construction debris, dirt, brick, and stones (residents should call a private hauler to dispose of these items).
- Contains dangerous or messy liquids such as gasoline and undried paint.
- Trash mixed with recycling

**No tag?** Request a "Missed Collection" ticket on Alex311

# WEEKLY COLLECTION SERVICES



REQUESTING SERVICES THROUGH ALEX311 - SEE PG. 27

## HELP, I AM UNABLE TO TAKE OUT MY TRASH OR RECYCLING

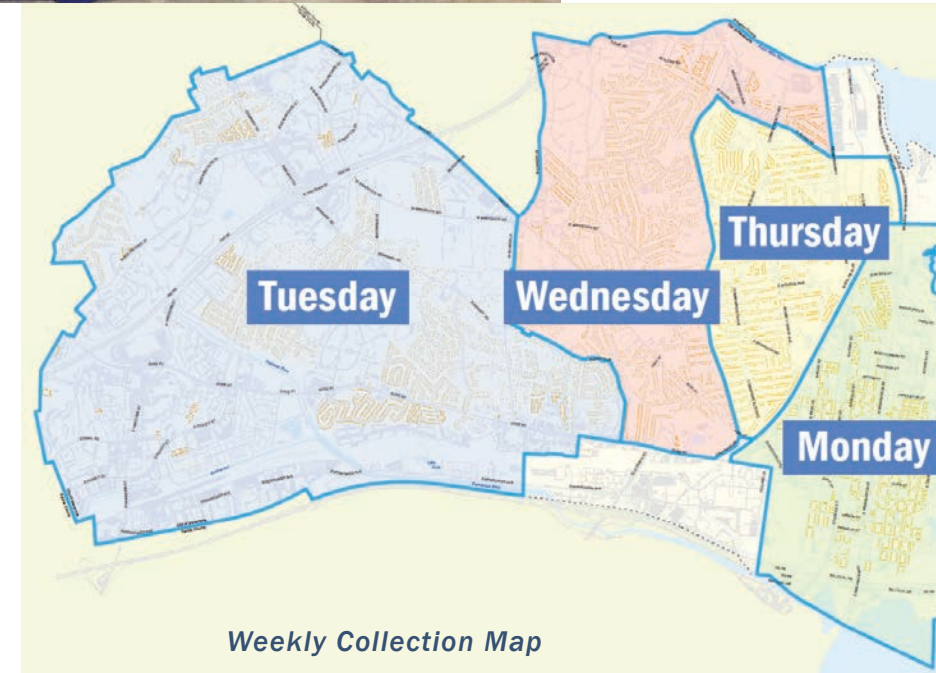
If you are physically unable to take your trash or recycling to the curb or alley, you may be eligible for an accommodation. If approved, staff will remove trash and recycling from a container that is staged outside your house at a convenient location for you. Call Alex311 to receive an application. This service is not available for yard waste.

## RECYCLING CART SIZES

While trash cart comes in one size (65 gallon), recycling carts come in three different sizes.

Please refer to the image for reference.

1. 65 gallon (recommended)
2. 35 gallon
3. 18 gallon bin



## RESIDENTIAL REFUSE FEE

- Your annual residential refuse fee covers weekly trash and recycling collection, yard waste/brush collection, household hazardous waste center operations, special collections (leaf collection) and enhanced recycling programs. The fee is listed on your real estate tax bill and paid semi-annually.
- Additional fees may be required for mulch delivery or bulk metal/appliance pickup.



# RECYCLING



Recycling markets are constantly changing. As these markets change, so does the recyclability of materials. Sorting technologies and packaging designs also change over time, which requires the City to review and adjust its recycling programs. The City will work to keep you informed about what is and is not recyclable.

## WHAT DO I RECYCLE IN THE BLUE CONTAINER?



<p><b>✓ PAPER &amp; CARDBOARD</b> EMPTY</p>		
<p><b>✓ PLASTICS</b> EMPTY &amp; RINSE LABELS OK</p>		
<p><b>✓ METALS</b> EMPTY &amp; RINSE LABELS OK</p>		
<p><b>✗ NO RECYCLING!</b></p>		
<p><b>NO STYROFOAM</b> <b>NO GLASS</b> <b>NO PLASTIC BAGS</b></p>	<p><b>NO BATTERIES &amp; ELECTRONICS</b> <b>NO CLOTHING OR TEXTILES</b> <b>NO TANGLES (CORDS, HOSES, WIRES)</b></p>	<p><b>NO SHREDDED PAPER</b> <b>NO PET WASTE/NO DIAPERS</b> <b>NO MEDICAL WASTE/SHARPS</b></p>

## RECYCLING GUIDELINES

- Materials should be clean, empty and dry. Rinse if necessary. No food residue.
- Put caps back on containers after emptying.
- Items smaller than 3 x 3 inches will slip through the recycling equipment. No utensils or straws.
- Empty and flatten cardboard. Remove air pillows, Styrofoam or plastic wrap from the cardboard.
- Plastic numbers (#1-7) do not determine recyclability. Rigid plastic containers with a neck made of #1 and #2 plastics are widely recyclable in the region.
- Do not recycle plastic cups, trays and containers such as take out containers or plastic fruit containers. While all plastics are potentially recyclable, the market dictates which types of plastics are acceptable.
- Visit [alexandriava.gov/Recycling](http://alexandriava.gov/Recycling) for online recycling tools and the most up-to-date Yes/No list.

### WHAT ABOUT RECYCLABLE ITEMS THAT DON'T BELONG IN THE BLUE CONTAINER?

Residents who receive City recycling collection service may schedule a pickup for bulky metal items. Metal household appliances and large metal items such as outdoor grills, exercise equipment, and chain-link fencing can be recycled per request (fees apply).

Contact Alex311 to put in a service request.



## NO PLASTIC BAGS IN RECYCLING!

Plastic bags, wrap, and film of any color, size or shape are not accepted in the City's recycling bin. Plastic bags are often the biggest contaminant found in the City's recycling stream. These materials clog recycling equipment resulting in safety hazards to employees and operational problems.

Recycling facilities will often reject recyclables if they are contained in a plastic garbage bag or include wraps and films of any kind. The City also pays a penalty when bags and wraps are present. Please help the City reduce contamination by keeping your recyclables loose.



Employees removing tangled plastic bags from recycling equipment

### PLASTIC BAG DROP-OFF

Plastic bags, wrap, and film can be recycled if they are dropped off at participating grocery stores and retailers.

# RECYCLE RIGHT ALEXANDRIA

## NO PLASTIC BAGS

# DO NOT BAG

Recyclables



**Return plastic bags to retailers.**

Find the nearest retailer: [plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://plasticfilmrecycling.org)



# RECYCLING DROP-OFF CENTERS

## RECYCLING AT DROP-OFF CENTERS

Can't wait to recycle? The City provides four public drop-off centers for all City residents and small businesses.

- 4251 Eisenhower Ave.
- 3224 Colvin St.
- S. Royal St. and Jones Point Dr.
- Tower Ct. South Whiting St.

🕒 24 hours a day, seven days a week

💰 Free

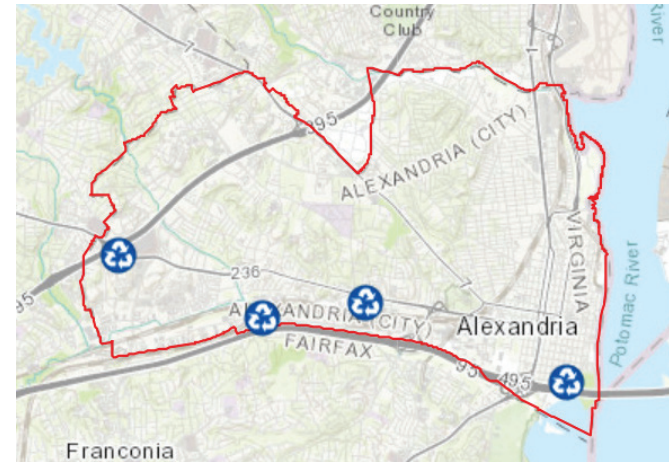
📄 [alexandria.gov/go/2768](http://alexandria.gov/go/2768)

### Accepted Materials:

- Mixed Containers (aluminum cans, steel cans, plastic bottles, and jugs)
- Mixed Paper
- Emptied and Flattened Cardboard (remove Styrofoam and plastic wrap)

### Not Accepted Materials:

- NO Glass (Use Purple Bins co-located at Recycling Centers)
- NO Styrofoam or Packing Peanuts
- NO Pots and Pans
- NO Plastic Bags, Wrap or Film
- NO Trash, Furniture, Bulk Trash, Construction Waste or Yard Waste (**NO Illegal dumping**)



## HELP US FIGHT ILLEGAL DUMPING

Illegal dumping is the unlawful disposal of trash. Illegal dumping threatens the closures of recycling centers. See any violations in progress? Report illegal dumping in the City by contacting Alex311.

Stopping illegal dumping makes good environmental and economic sense, and it is everyone's problem. Help us solve it by working together with your local law enforcement officials for a cleaner, healthier, and safer community.

The City of Alexandria is serious about combating this public nuisance. Do your part and help keep our community clean and healthy.



# GLASS



**YES!**

- ✓ Empty & Rinse
- ✓ Labels - OK
- ✓ All Colors of Glass - OK
- ✓ Metal Caps & Lids - OK

**NO!**

- Do Not Bag Glass  
No Plastic Liners
- No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap  
(return to retail)
- No Lamps or Bulbs (use Household Hazardous Waste Center at 3224 Colvin St.)
- No Misc Glass  
Ceramics, Porcelain, Mirrors, Windows, Pyrex, or Glass Sheets
- No Food or Liquid  
(empty and rinse)

## NO GLASS CONTAINERS IN BLUE RECYCLING!

Glass is not accepted by the curbside recycling program.

## RESIDENTS HAVE TWO OPTIONS:

Drop off glass at purple glass-only recycling bins. Place glass in the curbside trash carts.

Glass dropped off at purple bins will be recycled into new glass bottles and materials used in local public works projects.

📄 [alexandria.gov/go/2771](http://alexandria.gov/go/2771)

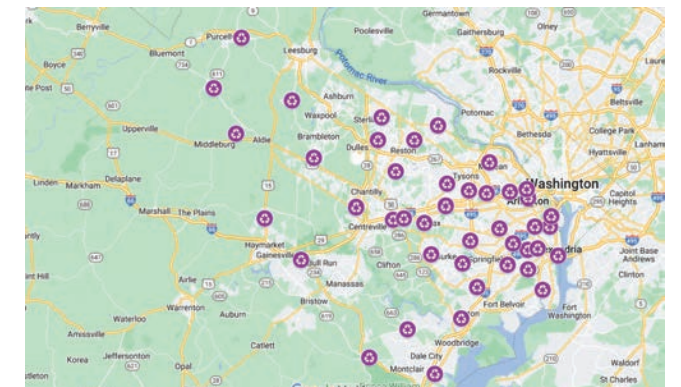
## GLASS DROP-OFF LOCATION

- 4251 Eisenhower Ave.
- 3224 Colvin St.
- S. Royal St. and Jones Point Dr.
- Tower Ct. and South Whiting St.
- 3831 Mt. Vernon Ave.

For additional locations in Northern Virginia, visit [alexandria.gov/go/2771](http://alexandria.gov/go/2771)

🕒 24 hours a day, seven days a week

💰 Free





# RECYCLING AT SPECIAL EVENTS

## RECYCLING AT YOUR EVENT

Recycling is one of the easiest and cheapest ways to reduce the amount of trash at your event. Recycling can be set up in four easy steps.

1. **Decide to have recycling at your event and establish a coordinator, especially for larger events.**
2. **Plan and set-up a collection system.**
  - What kind of trash and recycling containers will you use?
  - How many trash and recycling containers will you use?
  - The rule of thumb is one recycling container for every trash can.
  - Where will the trash and recycling containers be located? Keep the trash and recycling containers next to one another in highly visible and easily accessible locations.
  - Who will be responsible for emptying the trash and recycling containers?
  - Who will dispose of the trash and recycling at the end of the event? Hauler, individual, etc. For small events, the City's recycling drop-off locations are available.
3. **Promote and provide basic recycling education.**
  - Announce at the beginning and throughout the event that recycling is available.
  - Provide signs that state what is recyclable.
  - Ensure that the trash and recycling containers are appropriately labeled.



4. **Monitor the trash and recycling containers for any contamination (i.e. trash in the recycling container and vice versa).**
  - Have volunteers remind event goers about what is and is not recyclable and where recyclables go, especially for large events.

### Need Recycling Containers for your Special Event?

The City of Alexandria Recycling Program has 47 ClearStream recycling containers that can be loaned out for events in the City of Alexandria. For more information, visit our website below.

 [alexandriava.gov/go/2723](http://alexandriava.gov/go/2723)



# PUBLIC SPACE RECYCLING

## RECYCLING ON THE GO

Recycling containers are located in popular pedestrian areas such as lower King Street and Mount Vernon Ave. as well as City parks.

### Acceptable Materials:

- Plastic Bottles
- Aluminum Cans
- Mixed Paper

### Unacceptable Materials:

- Glass (recycle using glass purple bin or dispose of it in the trash)
- Pet Waste
- Styrofoam
- Plastic Bag/Film/Wrap
- Bulky Waste
- Food Containers (e.g. to-go containers, cups, or trays), or Other Trash

 [alexandriava.gov/go/2723](http://alexandriava.gov/go/2723)



**\*Please place bulky recyclables such as cardboard or large plastic jugs at a City Recycling Drop-Off Center.**



## NO POOP IN THE BLUE

Users of public space containers should refrain from disposing of their animal waste in the blue recycling containers and only use trash containers for animal waste.

Animal waste will contaminate recyclable materials requiring us to take them as trash.



# YARD WASTE



## YARD WASTE - REGULAR COLLECTION

Grass, leaves, brush, branches and dead plants are ingredients for making useful products like organic compost and mulch. This resource, referred to as yard waste, is now collected separately from household trash. The City processes this material to create compost or mulch. The City does not supply/maintain or replace Yard Waste containers. Place yard waste into rigid/reusable containers or paper yard-waste bags (purchased at grocery and hardware stores) and put them next to your trash container. Collection occurs on the same day as trash.



**NO!** **ROCKS, SOIL, STUMPS, SOD** **PET WASTE (DISPOSE IN TRASH)**  
(ARRANGE FOR PRIVATE DISPOSAL)

[alexandriava.gov/YardWaste](http://alexandriava.gov/YardWaste)

## BULKY YARD WASTE - BY REQUEST

Brush, branches, and logs that are too bulky or heavy to fit into a container are collected curbside by request. Staff will collect up to two felled trees at curbside (restrictions apply, see below).

Use Alex311 to schedule a collection day.

## PREPARATION

- Collection is available only for logs and branches less than 18 inches in diameter and less than 10 feet long. No tree stumps.
- **Place brush curbside, not in the yard or alley.** Stack large items parallel to the curb.
- Overhead clearance of 25 feet is required (look for power lines and tree limbs).
- Do not mix lumber or construction debris with brush.
- Do not place brush by parked cars; 10 feet of clearance is required.
- Do not stack brush against fixed objects such as poles, posts, fences, walls or buildings.
- Do not block sidewalks.

Contact **Alex311** to request a "YARD WASTE ONLY" label to identify your yard waste container.

# OTHER ORGANICS

## CHRISTMAS TREES

Residents who receive City collection may place natural Christmas trees on the curb on regular refuse days in the month of January. The trees will be ground into pine mulch. Stands, tinsel, decorations, and lights **MUST** be removed.

## SPRING LEAF & WOOD MULCH



For a limited time during spring and summer, free mulch is available on a first-come, first served basis from the City's mulch site (4251 Eisenhower Ave.).

The site is co-located with the Eisenhower Ave. Recycling Center.

You may also call Alex311 or visit the website below to schedule mulch delivery during the spring and early summer months. Delivery is \$65 for each half-load and \$130 for a full-load. Deliveries are scheduled Mon.-Fri. and not on weekends or holidays.

[alexandriava.gov/YardWaste](http://alexandriava.gov/YardWaste)

## NEW! CURBSIDE FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING PILOT 2023-2025

The City of Alexandria launched a new curbside food waste composting collection pilot for residents receiving City trash and recycling services. Residents approved for the pilot will be able to place items such as fruit and vegetable scraps, meat, and bones in a dedicated bin for food waste collection instead of putting food waste in the trash.

For pilot participants, the City will subsidize the cost of supplies and collection for the first six months. After six months, residents may continue service with the vendor for a monthly or annual subscription fee. \*The City will provide a twelve-month subsidy for 100 households currently exempt from payment of the Residential Refuse Fee and receiving tax relief and assistance. Up to 2,000 households will be selected in the pilot program each year for two years. To learn more about this service, please visit our website.

[alexandriava.gov/go/4289](http://alexandriava.gov/go/4289)





# LEAF COLLECTION

From late October through January, City crews operate leaf vacuum trucks and collect paper leaf bags. The annual curbside leaf collection program is a service provided to all residents receiving City residential refuse and recycling services. Alexandria is sectioned into five collection zones, each with a specific start date and three separate passes. Residents can access the Residential Leaf Collection Viewer (an interactive map on the City's Leaf Collection website) to look up assigned leaf collection dates based on the home address.

## Three Ways to Recycle Your Leaves

Residents who receive City trash and recycling collection services may recycle leaves in three ways:

### 1) LEAF VACUUMING

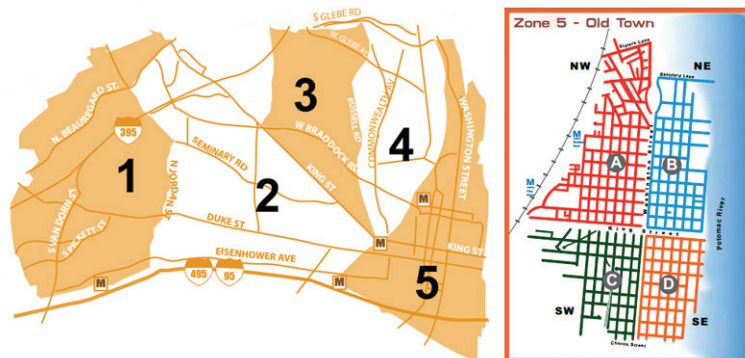


During leaf season, crews collect leaves raked to the front curb with a vacuum truck. Weather permitting; City crews make three passes through each neighborhood zone. It takes crews several days to complete each pass in each zone.

### How to Prepare

- Rake leaves out the day before your assigned collection date (check online for a weekly updated schedule or sign up for T&ES' Resource Recovery eNews to get weekly updates by email).
- Rake leaves into piles at the street curb. This enables crews to move more quickly and efficiently.
- Remove stones, litter, branches or other debris. These items can damage equipment and injure our workers.
- Avoid placing leaves in front of storm drains or water meter covers.
- Move parked cars off leaf piles.
- Do not rake leaves into alleys or service roads. Loose leaves are not collected from alleys.

 [alexandriava.gov/LeafCollection](http://alexandriava.gov/LeafCollection)



### 2) LEAF BAG COLLECTION



During leaf collection season, the City provides biodegradable paper bags for leaves, available on a first come, first serve basis, while supplies last. The bags are available at various City facilities for pick-up for residents and not available for commercial use.

Bags are collected at your collection point (where you set your trash, recycling, and yard waste out) on your regular trash collection day.

### How to Prepare

- Place paper bags at your collection point, on your regular trash collection day. Only use paper bags. Leaves in plastic bags are considered refuse, and will be thrown away as trash at the Covanta Energy-from-Waste plant.
- Remove dirt, stones, litter and other debris from leaves before placing them in bags.

### 3) COMPOST LEAVES AT HOME

Composting at home is an easy way to take advantage of the environment's natural recycling process, which creates valuable organic supplements, and can be done right in your own backyard. Visit [alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery](http://alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery) to learn more about grasscycling, backyard composting, and the City's farmers' market composting stations.




# FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING AT FARMERS' MARKETS

Compost Food Scraps to Make Rich Soil

## COMPOST YES

-  NUTS, BEANS, SEEDS (including shells/hulls)
-  FRUIT & VEGETABLE SCRAPS
-  COFFEE GROUNDS, FILTERS, TEA BAGS (no foil or foil-backed products)
-  BREAD, PASTA, RICE, GRAINS, & CEREAL
-  EGGS SHELLS
-  FLOWERS

## COMPOST NO

-  OIL
-  PLASTIC BAGS
-  MEAT, SEAFOOD, & BONES
-  DAIRY
-  NAPKINS, TISSUE
-  PET WASTE

## City of Alexandria's Food Waste Composting Stations Compost Food Scraps to Make Rich Soil

### LOCATIONS


**Del Ray Farmers' Market**  
Corner of East Oxford & Mount Vernon Avenues  
Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Open Year Round

**Old Town Farmers' Market**  
Market Square, 301 King Street  
Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Open Year Round

**Four Mile Run Farmers' Market**  
4109 Mount Vernon Avenue  
Sundays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Open Year Round

**West End Farmers' Market**  
4800 Brenman Park Drive  
Sundays, 8.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Seasonal Market - Check Website for Dates

**Old Town North Farmers Market**  
901 North Royal Street  
Sundays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Open Year Round

 **NEW Southern Towers Farmers Market**  
4901 Seminary Rd  
Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Year Round



Food waste can be dropped-off at weekend farmers' markets for composting into a nutrient rich natural fertilizer for free. Staff is on-site to answer questions about composting and provide advice on how to reduce food waste.



## SAVE THE FOOD

**40% of all foods in America is wasted.**

Stopping food waste before it begins and donating food is the best practice before composting. Learn about food waste prevention, a directory of where to donate food, and additional tips by visiting [alexandriava.gov/FoodWaste](http://alexandriava.gov/FoodWaste).

ECO-CITY  ALEXANDRIA



# TRASH SERVICES



After separating recyclables and yard waste, what remains is your household trash. The City of Alexandria collects trash from approximately 20,200 customers each week. The trash that we collect is processed into energy. Alexandria disposes of its trash at COVANTA Energy's Alexandria/Arlington Waste-To-Energy Facility at 5301 Eisenhower Avenue.

This facility turns waste into energy by burning 975 tons of solid waste daily to produce 21 megawatts of energy and power to approximately 15,000 homes. The City follows U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Waste Management Hierarchy of energy recovery following reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting.



**20,200**

The City of Alexandria collects trash from approximately 20,200 customers each week



**10,000**

tons of ferrous metal were recovered from the plant for recycling in FY22



**975**

tons of waste to energy per day



**21**

megawatts of energy and power generated to approximately 15,000 homes.

## TRASH PREPARATION

Your household trash bags should be put into a City provided trash container and placed curbside (or alley) on your designated trash day.



## BULK TRASH - EVERY COLLECTION DAY

You can place bulky items next to your trash container on your collection day any time of year. Bulk metal items require a service request through Alex311 (fees apply for appliances); otherwise, put large items out for pickup whenever you want, whether it's spring or not.

TRASH - NO!

- X ROCKS & SOIL
- X ELECTRONICS
- X RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES
- X HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
- X BATHROOM FIXTURES
- X BRICKS & BUILDING MATERIALS

# TRASH SERVICES



COVANTA Alexandria/Arlington Waste-To-Energy Facility

## TRASH DROP-OFF CENTER

The City's Waste-To-Energy Facility includes a residential drop-off available to all Alexandria residents. Residents may drop-off waste once per week. Total weight of trash, debris or metal must not exceed 500 lbs. per visit. Residents may be asked to provide proof of residency by photo identification. (Unacceptable items include TVs, stumps, rocks, dirt, sand, pressurized cylinders/tanks, construction and building debris, hazardous waste, ammunition/ explosives, regulated medical waste and radioactive/geological materials.)

- Questions? Call COVANTA at 703.370.7722
- 5301 Eisenhower Ave.
- Mon-Fri from 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
- FREE
- [alexandriava.gov/RefuseCollection](http://alexandriava.gov/RefuseCollection)

## ENVIRONMENTAL UPGRADES COMPLETE

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has issued final permits for the installation and operation of Low NOx (LN®) technology at the COVANTA Alexandria/Arlington Waste-To-Energy Facility.

In 2022, Covanta Alexandria Waste-to-Energy facility completed planned enhancements to its state-of-the-art pollution control technology. The goal is to further reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, thereby helping to protect the environment.

With installation of its proprietary Low NOx (LN) technology now complete, nitrogen oxide emissions have been reduced by nearly 50%. The effort was part of a multi-year project at the Covanta Alexandria-Arlington Facility.



## BUILDING MATERIALS, ROCKS & DIRT

Material from home construction projects and landscaping materials such as dirt, rock and stone are not accepted in the City's programs. Hauling and disposal services for shingles, brick, bathroom fixtures, drywall and framing lumber are available commercially.


Please consider donating reusable items such as light fixtures and kitchen cabinetry. Contact landscaping companies for the removal of dirt, rock and stone. Visit our website, [alexandriava.gov/RefuseCollection](http://alexandriava.gov/RefuseCollection) for a list of other local solid waste facilities and link to the MWCOG's Builder's Recycling Guide.



# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) & ELECTRONICS

Some household products require special disposal to keep our community safe, our water clean and our air fresh. These products contain harmful chemicals and heavy metals. The City operates a staffed drop-off location open two days a week for these items.

 3224 Colvin St. (just off Duke St.)

 **Mon** OPEN 7:30 am to 3:30 pm  
(except holidays)

Tues: CLOSED

Wed: CLOSED

Thu: CLOSED

Fri: CLOSED

Sat: OPEN 7:30 am to 3:30 pm  
(except holidays)

Sun: CLOSED

 **FREE**



 Visit website for full list of materials [alexandriava.gov/go/2703](http://alexandriava.gov/go/2703)



**HOUSEHOLD CLEANING**



**ELECTRONIC WASTE**



**PAINT, STAINS & SOLVENTS**



**AUTOMOTIVE CHEMICALS**



**PESTICIDES**



**PROPANE TANK**



**MERCURY CONTAINING ITEMS  
OLD THERMOMETERS &  
THERMOSTATS  
FLUORESCENT BULBS**



**HERBICIDES & GARDEN PRODUCTS**



**BATTERIES**

Batteries are the leading cause of truck fires in the U.S. Do not place rechargeable batteries of any kind in the trash or recycling. Bring them to the HHW Center. Regular alkaline can go in trash.



All Rechargeable (e.g. Li-Ion, Ni-MH, Ni-Cd, Ni-Zn)  
Single Use Lithium (e.g. button/coin cell, AA, AAA, 9V, C, D, CR123A, CR2)  
Lead Acid (automotive) & Sealed Lead Acid

## HOW TO DISPOSE OF



### ...LATEX PAINT?

Unlike oil-based paint, latex paint is not a hazardous waste and can be disposed of with regular trash. The challenge is getting it from your home to the Waste-to-Energy plant without it leaking from the trash truck. Prior to disposal thicken the paint by adding paint absorbent, kitty litter or shredded newspaper, then replace the lid and seal the can in a plastic bag. Never pour paint down a sink or storm drain! For tips on reducing paint waste see, **page 21**.



### ...FOOD OILS, FATS AND GREASE?

Small amounts can be absorbed with paper towels and thrown away as regular trash. Modest amounts can be poured into a container with a screw-on lid and disposed as regular trash. For larger amounts, consider asking a restaurant manager for permission to empty the oil into their used oil container. Never pour oils, fats or greases down the sink drain or storm drain.



### ...PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE?

Help the City keep opioids out of the hands of those who might abuse them and to keep our precious drinking water clean from improper medicine disposals. Never flush medicine down a toilet or pour down a drain. You can drop-off any old or unwanted medicine year-round at:

- APD Headquarters (3600 Wheeler Ave.)
- Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray (2204 Mt. Vernon Ave.)
- Inova Alexandria Hospital (4320 Seminary Rd.)



### ...SHARPS?

Check with your doctor, clinic, or hospital to see about a needle or “sharps” disposal program at their office. Otherwise, place needles, syringes, lancets and other contaminated sharps in any puncture-resistant, resealable, disposable household container (e.g. empty bleach bottle, laundry detergent bottle, or metal coffee can). Write on the container “SHARPS”. Once your container is full of used needles, fill the container with one part bleach solution and ten parts of water. Allow solution to soak for 20 minutes, to sterilize your used sharps. Then, pour the solution into the sink and seal the cap with tape before placing the disposal container into the garbage. Dispose of the container in your regular trash bin.



### ...EXPLOSIVES AND AMMUNITION?

Fireworks and explosives should be taken to a near-by fire station. Ammunition should be taken to the police department. Please call their non-emergency number to arrange a drop-off. (703.746.4444).



# BATTERIES

**BATTERIES CAN SPARK OR EXPLODE**  
They don't belong in recycling or trash.



## SAFELY DISPOSE OF BATTERIES

Did you know that improper disposal of rechargeable batteries is one of the leading causes of truck fires in the waste industry?

Do not throw away rechargeable batteries or single use lithium batteries in the recycling OR trash bins.

Help keep our workers safe by dropping off your rechargeable batteries (e.g. Li-Ion, Ni-Cd, Ni-Mh, Ni-Zn), single use lithium batteries (e.g. button/coin cell, AA, AAA, 9V, C, D, CR123A, CR2), and batteries greater than 9 volts at an approved drop-off location for safe disposal.



**Note:** Alkaline batteries (e.g. AA, AAA batteries) can be safely disposed of in the trash.

## DROP OFF LOCATIONS



### Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Collection Center

Location: 3224 Colvin Street

Hours:

Mon: **OPEN 7:30 am to 3:30 pm** (except holidays)  
 Tues: CLOSED  
 Wed: CLOSED  
 Thu: CLOSED  
 Fri: CLOSED  
 Sat: **OPEN 7:30 am to 3:30 pm** (except holidays)  
 Sun: CLOSED

For additional drop off locations provided voluntarily by retailers in the City, please visit [alexandriava.gov/go/3619](http://alexandriava.gov/go/3619)

## EXAMPLES OF BATTERIES TO DROP OFF

Rechargeable batteries are found in more places than you may think

- Cordless power tools (e.g. leaf blowers, drills, saws, grinders, lawn mowers)
- Cellphones, Cordless phones, Two-Way Radios
- Flashlights
- Laptops & Tablets
- Biomedical Equipment
- Children's Toys
- Singing Greeting Cards
- Keyless entry remotes, Remote Controls
- E-Cigarettes
- Electronic Toothbrushes
- Smoke Detectors



Picture credit: Call2Recycle

# REDUCE & REUSE TIPS



Reducing waste and reusing is the most effective way to save natural resources, protect the environment, and reduce costs.

1. Donate or sell unwanted clothing, toys, and home furnishings. Visit the City's Reuse Directory at [alexandriava.gov/19202](http://alexandriava.gov/19202) for drop-off locations.
2. Opt out of credit card solicitations and other types of unwanted mail. Visit [catalogchoice.org](http://catalogchoice.org).
3. Prevent food waste by planning meals ahead, using the food you have, and keeping food fresh longer. Visit [savethefood.com](http://savethefood.com) for tools such as an interactive dinner party calculator, a digital tool to create a meal prep shopping list, an interactive food storage guide, and more.
4. Shop with reusable bags to reduce plastic bags.
5. Pack lunch in a reusable container and bring utensils from home.
6. Use a reusable water bottle or mug to reduce single use waste.
7. Wrap presents in reusable gift wrap.
8. Extend the life of items by repairing or refurbishing prior to disposal.
9. **Reduce Paint Waste:** Consider using a paint calculator when buying paint for your project to avoid buying more than needed. If you have a surplus of good quality paint consider donating, giving away to someone who can use it, or bringing it to the HHW Center on Colvin St.



# REDUCE PLASTIC BAGS

## BE THE SOLUTION TO PLASTIC POLLUTION



### PLASTIC BAG TAX

The City of Alexandria, along with Arlington, Loudan, and Fairfax Counties, has adopted a 5-cent per bag tax on disposable plastic bags from grocery, convenience, and drug stores. The tax went into effect on January 1, 2022.

### BACKGROUND

Lightweight plastic bags are commonly found in waterways as litter and remain as a pollutant. Wildlife commonly mistake plastic bags for food and also cause microscopic particles of broken down plastics to enter into the food chain. During the City's WasteSmart Strategic Plan and the Environmental Action Plan (EAP) stakeholder engagement process since 2017, the City of Alexandria residents voiced their concerns over single-use plastic from the public to see less environmental impact of plastic bags.

### INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

Avoid the 5-cent bag fee when shopping at grocery stores, convenience stores, and drug stores by bringing your reusable bag whenever you shop.



For more information visit:  
[alexandriava.gov/go/2091](https://alexandriava.gov/go/2091)

### REUSABLE BAG ACCESS FOR SNAP / WIC COMMUNITY

The City has been offering reusable bags to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) communities in advance of the Plastic Bag Tax going into effect on January 1, 2022.

### REUSABLE BAGS AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

#### Community and Human Services Front Office (DCHS)

- 2525 Mount Vernon Ave.
- Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

#### Department of Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES)

- 2900-B Business Center Dr.
- Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

# STRATEGIES TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE

Wasted food accounts for 25% of the trash we throw away. Follow these easy tips to keep good food from going to waste.



### SMART SHOPPING

Buy only what you need and shop your kitchen first. Think about how many meals you'll eat at home this week and how long before your next shopping trip.



### SMART PREP

Prepare perishable foods soon after shopping. It will be easier to whip up meals later in the week, saving time, effort, and money.



### SMART STORAGE

Know which fruits and vegetables stay fresh longer inside or outside the fridge. By storing them for maximum freshness, they will taste better and last longer.



### SMART SAVINGS

Eat what you buy. Be mindful of leftovers and old ingredients. Households are encouraged to designate an area in the refrigerator for food that should be eaten relatively soon to prevent spoiling, and posting the prompt as a visual reminder.

 [alexandriava.gov/go/4260](https://alexandriava.gov/go/4260)

# REDUCE HOLIDAY WASTE

On average, household waste increases by more than 25% from Thanksgiving to New Years. Help reduce waste during the holiday season with these simple tips.



## KEEP TANGLERS OUT OF BLUE BIN

Please remember to keep items that tangle out of the recycling bin this holiday season. Reuse ribbons & bows or place them in the trash.



## EMPTY, FLATTEN, RECYCLE SHIPPING BOXES

This holiday season, remember to empty, flatten, and recycle your shipping and gift boxes. When you flatten boxes it makes more room in your recycling bin.



## RECYCLING WHILE COOKING

Cooking this holiday season? Did you know items such as milk cartons, aluminum cans, and baking sheets can be recycled. Just make sure they are rinsed and dry before placing in the bin.



## GIVE EXPERIENCES INSTEAD OF STUFF!

Tickets to a show, dinner for two, or movie coupons are all great gift ideas that require no packaging. Give an alternative gift that may benefit charities, especially those that have been impacted by the pandemic. Remember memories can last longer than things.



## GIFT IN REUSABLE AND/OR RECYCLABLE CONTAINERS

Get creative this holiday season! Reuse boxes from online purchases as gift boxes. Or give existing materials a second life as gift wrap. These can include newspapers, magazines, and bags. Pro tip: The “funny papers” or comics are terrific for children’s gifts.



## USE NATURAL MATERIALS IN YOUR HOLIDAY DÉCOR

Decorate using real greenery. Natural wreaths and garland decor can be composted with your other yard waste after the holidays. Just remember to remove any wires, lights, or ribbon. For more information about recycling yard waste, visit our Yard Waste Recycling page.

## WRAPPING PAPER GUIDE

Purchase wrapping paper made with recycled materials that will also be recyclable and reuse tissue and wrapping paper. Remember, metallic/glitter wrapping paper are not recyclable.

[alexandriava.gov/go/4151](http://alexandriava.gov/go/4151)

**'TIS THE SEASON TO RECYCLE**

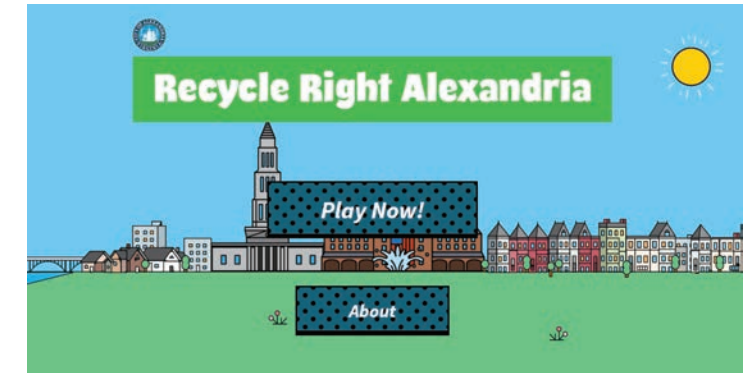
	REUSE	RECYCLE	TRASH
GLOSSY	❄️	❄️	
METALLIC	❄️		❄️
WAX-COATED	❄️		❄️
PLAIN	❄️	❄️	
TISSUE	❄️		❄️
PAPER TUBE	❄️	❄️	
PAPER BOX	❄️	❄️	

# TOOLS TO HELP REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE

## RECYCLE RIGHT SORTING GAME

The City launched a sorting game that teaches you how to properly sort recyclables, yard waste and trash. Test your knowledge of sorting using City services and build your own digital Alexandria park.

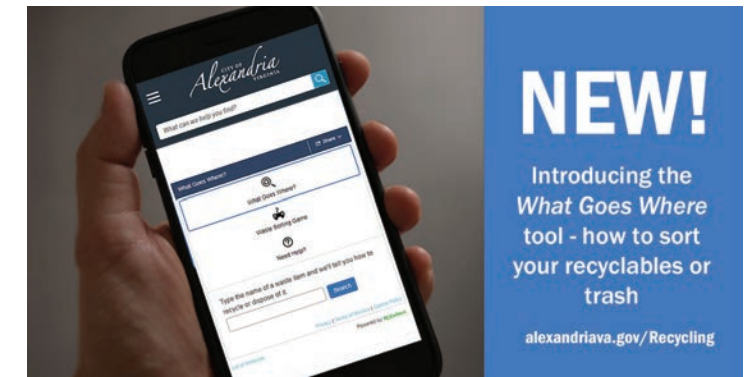
[alexandriava.recycle.game](http://alexandriava.recycle.game)



## WHAT GOES WHERE?

Have you ever been unsure about which items can be recycled or trashed? With the City’s new “What Goes Where?” tool, the guesswork is out. Simply type in the name of the item you have a question about, and information will be provided on how best to dispose of it in the City.

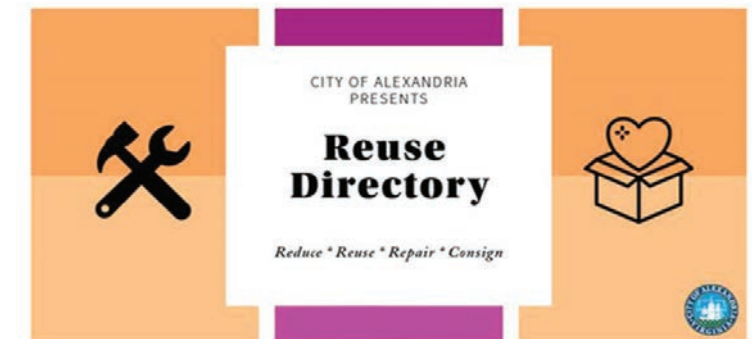
[alexandriava.gov/Recycling](http://alexandriava.gov/Recycling)



## REUSE DIRECTORY

Want to reduce and reuse but not sure where to start? Visit the City’s website for our new Reuse Directory! Find a list of local resources where you can repair, donate, and shop second-hand.

[alexandriava.gov/go/2773](http://alexandriava.gov/go/2773)





# TOOLS TO HELP REFILL & GO PACKAGE FREE

## PACKAGE FREE MAP

Have you been curious about reducing waste or going package free? Visit our website to learn a few easy tips on shopping package-free and reducing your household packaging and plastic waste.

[alexandriava.gov/go/2773](http://alexandriava.gov/go/2773)



## PREVENT FOOD WASTE

Prevent food waste with tips for shopping wisely, using the food you have, and keeping food fresh longer. Check out Save the Food's website for tools such as an interactive dinner party calculator, a digital tool to help you create your next shopping list to meal prep, an interactive storage guide, and more.

[alexandriava.gov/FoodWaste](http://alexandriava.gov/FoodWaste)



# HOW TO CONTACT US



Alex311 connects you to more than 175 City services in a variety of convenient ways. The Alex311 mobile app and website allow you to attach photos and specify the location of service requests. Call 311 or 703.746.4311 from anywhere in Alexandria, or submit requests on Facebook, Twitter and in-person. When a service request is submitted, you'll receive an email including a summary of the details, an expected response date based on the request type and a case number to track progress.



**ALEX 311**  
 CONNECTING YOU TO CITY SERVICES  
[alexandriava.gov/Alex311](http://alexandriava.gov/Alex311)

## STAY CONNECTED



Visit the City's website at [alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov)



Visit the Resource Recovery Division's website at [alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery](http://alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery)



Follow us on social media @AlexandriaVATES

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

For the Holiday Operating Schedule, please visit: [alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery](http://alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery)

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