



MANDATORY RECYCLING

Rules & Regulations

Recycling is mandatory in the City of Madison and throughout Wisconsin. If you do not follow these rules, the recycling cart may not be emptied.

How to Recycle Right

- » Only put the correct recyclables in the green recycling cart.
 - Use the guide on the back to learn what you should put into the cart.
- » Recyclables must be clean, empty, and dry.
- » Keep cart lid closed to protect recyclables from rain or snow.
 - Nothing should stick out more than 18 inches from the cart to ensure collection.

Bagging Recyclables

Recyclables are best loose in the cart. The only exception is shredded paper. Shredded paper must be in a see-through bag, tied closed tightly, and about the size of a basketball.

If you choose to bag all your recyclables, you must choose see-through bags.

Do not use black, white, gray, or any other bag you cannot see through.

Recyclables Outside of the Cart

We recommend using the drop-off site for extra recyclables. However, we will collect recyclables outside the cart two times in a calendar year, or at the discretion of the field supervisor, if you follow the below rules:

- » You are limited to a maximum of 10 bags of recyclables in addition to bundles of cardboard.
- » The recycling cart is full
- » Recyclables outside of the cart are placed into see-through bags.
- » Bags of excess recyclables weigh less than 40 pounds apiece

Cardboard Outside the Cart Rules

- » All boxes must be flattened.
- » Bundle and stack excess cardboard. Do not stuff cardboard into a larger box.
 - Use rope, twine, or tape.
- » Flattened bundles should be at most 3 feet wide by 3 feet long (approximately)
- » Bundles should be at most 6 inches tall (approximately)

Items Banned from Recycling Cart

Item	Instructions
Batteries	Take to drop-off site for battery recycling.
Brush (branches, tree limbs, sticks, etc.)	Drop-off site or brush collection. Banned from trash and recycling carts.
Clothes and other fabric	Tan trash cart or donate.
Diapers	Tan trash cart.
Electronics	Take to drop-off site for electronics recycling.
Extension cords, charging cables, holiday lights, etc.	Take to drop-off site for electronics recycling.
Hoses	Tan trash cart.
Light bulbs	Fluorescent: Return to the store where you bought it for recycling. LED: Take to drop-off site for recycling or tan trash cart. Incandescent: Tan trash cart.
Pet waste	Tan trash cart.
Plastic bags (loose)	Return to a retailer with plastic bag recycling.
Plastic film, plastic sheets, plastic wrap, etc.	Tan trash cart.
Propane tanks (any size)	Camp stove sized: Take to Dane County Clean Sweep. Gas grill sized: If completely empty and valve open, take to drop-off site.
Styrofoam	Drop-off site for styrofoam recycling or tan trash cart.
Wood	Tan trash cart
Yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, weeds, etc.)	Drop-off site or yard waste pickup. Banned from trash and recycling carts.

Last Updated: 6/2025

Contact Us

- » **East of S. Park Street**
 - Phone: (608) 246-4532
 - Email: streets@cityofmadison.com
 - Office: 4602 Sycamore Ave.
 - Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30am to 4:00pm
- » **West of S. Park Street**
 - Phone: (608) 266-4681
 - Email: streets@cityofmadison.com
 - Office: 1501 W. Badger Rd.
 - Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30am to 4:00pm

More Recycling Information

cityofmadison.com/recycling



Drop-Off Sites

Hours and locations change seasonally.

Contact us or go to our website to learn the current hours and locations.

Drop-off website is www.cityofmadison.com/DropOffSites

Rules

- » Sites are for City of Madison residents and taxpayers only
- » Proof of residency or taxpayer status is required
- » Contactors may not use the drop-off sites
- » You are allowed 1 trip a day.
- » The single load must not be larger than what could fit into the back of a standard pickup truck bed or a 5' x 8' trailer.

Recycle more. Recycle right.

- » Avoid bagging
- » Keep lid closed
- » Recyclables should be clean, empty, and dry.



PAPER



Flattened cardboard
Pizza boxes
Mail
Cartons & cups
Office & packing paper
Newspaper & magazines

PLASTIC



Bottles (lids on)
Dairy tubs
Gallon jugs
Deli containers
Clamshell packaging
Containers #1-#7

METAL



Aluminum cans & foil
Pots & pans
Steel & tin cans

GLASS



Bottles (remove caps)
Jars (remove lids)