Your Recycling
Yard Waste
Food Scraps
Food-Soiled Paper
Garbage
Guide

RESOURCES

**Garbage, recycling and yard waste**
Get curbside service by contacting your garbage hauler. Find your garbage hauler: [kingcounty.gov/solidwaste](http://kingcounty.gov/solidwaste) or call 206-477-4466.

**Household Hazardous Waste collection sites and other services**
[hazwastehelp.org](http://hazwastehelp.org) on the web.

**King County Recycling and Solid Waste Transfer Stations**
All facilities accept garbage for disposal; most accept a wide range of recyclables. Visit [kingcounty.gov/solidwaste](http://kingcounty.gov/solidwaste) or call 206-477-4466 for locations, hours and fees.

**Medicine Take-Back Program**
Residents can dispose of unwanted medicines. See [takebackyourmeds.org](http://takebackyourmeds.org) for a list of take-back locations.

**Take it Back Network**
Recycle electronics, mercury-containing fluorescent bulbs and tubes and mattresses. Find locations at [takeitbacknetwork.org](http://takeitbacknetwork.org) on the web.

This material will be provided in alternate formats upon request.

206-477-4466; 1-800-325-6165, ext. 7-4466; TYY Relay: 711
[kingcounty.gov/SolidWaste](http://kingcounty.gov/SolidWaste) on the web
Rates
Garbage collection fees are determined by the size of your garbage bin; the bigger your bin, the more you pay.

This guide tells you what items go in the garbage, recycling and yard waste bins everywhere in King County. Your community may collect additional items. Check with your garbage hauler for additional items.

Recycle Right!
➢ Don’t assume you still know what is recyclable. Check the rules! Contact your garbage hauler.
➢ Put recyclables in the bin loose
➢ Scrape out food residue; empty and rinse containers
➢ Flatten boxes
➢ Labels on bottles and containers are OK
➢ Lids and caps go in the garbage

Bins Overflowing?
Extra Recycling: Extra items go next to your bin on pick-up day, in paper bags or cardboard boxes. Label “recycle.” There is no charge for extra recycling.

Extra Garbage: Place next to your bin on pick-up day. There is a charge for extra garbage. Costs vary, contact your garbage hauler.

Extra Yard Waste: Place in Kraft paper bags or other containers, next to your bin. Label “yard waste.” No food scraps allowed in extra containers. Costs vary, contact your garbage hauler.

Rates
The cost of recycling collection services is included in your garbage fees.

Call or check your garbage hauler’s website to find out about the bin size that’s best for your family.

When you recycle and compost more, you could save money by downsizing to a smaller bin.

Bin Placement
Check with your garbage hauler about what day and time to put out your bins for collection. Place your garbage, recycling and yard waste bins at least 2 feet apart with lid opening towards the street, away from mailboxes and cars and within 5 feet of the curb.

Got questions?
Find your garbage hauler at www.kingcounty.gov/SolidWaste or call 206-477-4466.
RECYCLE

- Put recyclables in the bin loose
- Scrape out food residue
- Flatten boxes; large pieces next to bin; do not tie with twine
- Lids and caps go in the garbage
- Recycle plastic by shape: bottles, tubs, jugs and cups can be recycled
- Ignore the chasing arrow symbols and numbers on plastic containers.
- Empty and rinse containers

**Plastics:**
Yogurt, dairy and margarine tubs
Shampoo, conditioner bottles
Household cleaner bottles
Detergent, fabric softener bottles
**NEW!** Plastic plant pots (no soil)
Plastic cups

**Aluminum and tin cans:**
Soda cans
Metal food cans
**NEW!** Clean aluminum foil and foil trays

**Metal:**
Limit 2 ft. x 2 ft. x 2 ft., Fewer than 35 lbs

**Cardboard:**
Cardboard without a waxy or plastic coating

**Paper and newspaper:**
Newspaper, inserts
Mail, envelopes (windowed too)
Cereal and dry food boxes (no liners)
Frozen food boxes
Paperback books
Magazines, catalogs and phone books
Non-foil wrapping paper
Juice boxes, milk, soy milk and broth containers
Milk, ice cream cartons
Paper cups, coffee cups

**Glass jars and bottles, any color:**
No broken glass

Not sure? Check the kingcounty.gov/WhatDoIDoWith website or call 206-477-4466; 1-800-325-6165, ext. 7-4466.
**YARD WASTE, FOOD SCRAPS & FOOD–SOILED PAPER**

No plastic, glass, metal, liquid waste, cooking oil, fruit stickers, pet waste or litter.
Layer food scraps with yard waste, newspaper or shredded paper (no plastic)

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**Yard Waste:**
- Grass clippings & leaves
- Houseplants (no pots)
- Tree branches (nothing over 4 ft. long or 4in. diameter)
- Weeds
- Twigs, branches and roots from pruning

**Food Scraps:**
- Fruit, vegetable scraps and leftovers
- Bread, pasta and grains
- Eggshells and nutshells
- Coffee filters and grounds
- Teabags and tea leaves
- Meat, fish, poultry, bones
- Dairy products (yogurt, cheese, etc.)

**Food-soiled Paper:**
- Greasy pizza delivery boxes (no condiment packets or plastic trays)
- Paper towels and napkins (no cleaners or chemicals)
- Shredded paper (small amounts)
- Uncoated paper plates*
- Paper grocery bags containing food scraps
- Paper egg and berry cartons

*Tip: Uncoated paper does not have a shiny surface.

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*Tip: Collect your food scraps in container with an approved compostable collection bag. (Find a retailer, visit recyclefood.com) Empty the container into your yard waste bin frequently.

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Not sure? Check the kingcounty.gov/WhatDoIWith website or call 206-477-4466; 1-800-325-6165, ext. 7-4466.
Check your garbage before you take it to the curb. Are there any recyclable items in there?

**Plastics:**
- Preformed plastic packaging
- Take-out containers
- Plastic bags/drycleaner bags*
- Styrofoam and packing peanuts*
- Caps and lids
- Polystyrene cups and egg cartons
- Stretch wrap
- Motor oil and antifreeze containers
- Plastic bakery, meat trays, plates and utensils
- Empty prescription vials

*Tips: Plastic bags can be recycled. Check bagyourbags.com on the web.

Reuse or recycle Styrofoam and packing peanuts

**Glass:**
- Mirrors, window glass and broken glass
- Ceramics and dishes
- Incandescent and halogen light bulbs (no compact fluorescent tubes, lights or bulbs (CFLs))*

*Tip: Check takeitbacknetwork.org for recycling options for CFLs.

**Aluminum and tin:**
- Empty aerosol spray cans
- Latex paint cans containing hardened or solidified paint (leave top off)*
- Oil containers

*Tip: Dry out paint – mix with kitty litter or paint hardener; put in the garbage.

**Paper:**
- Disposable diapers
- Ribbons or foil wrapping paper
- Hardback books*
- Wax and plastic-coated cardboard
- Dirty or soiled paper and food-soiled food boxes
- Used tissues and paper towels with cleaning solutions

*Tip: Donate books, or take them to King County Transfer Stations with recycling services.

**Metal: No medical sharps**
- Sharp or greasy metal
- Metal caps and lids
- Clothes hangers*
- Small appliances

*Tip: Donate clothes hangers to a local charity or return them to your dry cleaner.

**Other:**
- Garden hoses, light strings*
- Pet waste and litter (double bagged and tied shut)

*Tip: Check for holiday light recycling locations at kcecoconsumer.com

Not sure? Check the kingcounty.gov/WhatDoIWith website or call 206-477-4466; 1-800-325-6165, ext. 7-4466.
Large appliances:
Appliances can be repaired or donated for reuse. Older appliances may contain chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which qualified personnel must remove before disposal. Large appliances are accepted for recycling at some transfer stations and businesses for a fee. Check kingcounty.gov/WhatDoIDoWith for locations.

Large appliances include:
Refrigerators and freezers
Dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers
Stoves, ranges and furnaces

Mattresses
Ask a retailer to take it back or visit kingcounty.gov/WhatDoIDoWith “furniture” category to find a recycler.

Mercury-Containing Products:
These products are prohibited from disposal in the garbage and at county transfer stations. Please recycle these products.

Fluorescent bulbs and tubes
Including “green tipped” or “low mercury” tubes and compact fluorescent (CFLs) bulbs and tubes
Find out where to recycle fluorescent bulbs and tubes at takeitbacknetwork.org or call 206-477-4466.

Mercury switches, thermometers and thermostats
For recycling of these and other mercury-containing products, call the household hazardous line at 206-296-4692 or toll free at 1-888-TOXIC ED (1-888-869-4233). hazwastehelp.org on the web.

Medical sharps and other waste from home medical care
Check kingcounty.gov/WhatDoIDoWith.

Not sure? Check the kingcounty.gov/WhatDoIDoWith website or call 206-477-4466; 1-800-325-6165, ext. 7-4466.