

City of Grand Rapids Recycling Newsletter

WINTER 2023-2024 (VOL. 3)



The City of Grand Rapids Public Works Department Recycling Program makes it easy to recycle! Since 2010, Grand Rapids has been a single-stream recycling program. This means that all clean recyclable materials are able to be recycled together in one cart.

Recycling is available to all residents of Grand Rapids. For more information on how to start, stop or change your service and to find the recycling pick up schedule, click on the City of Grand Rapids Public Works link below.

Recycling does not need to be a chore. There are so many ways you can recycle. Donating clothes, reusing plastic bottles and cups, or even turning old materials into new art projects. With recycling the possibilities are endless!



We aim to make sure the City's environment is healthy. To do this, we use the latest cutting edge technology for waste, recycling, and street management. We are also committed to making the City of Grand Rapids one of the most sustainable cities in the U.S.

Each recycling cart is made with 40% recycled plastic and the program is available to all residents who have access to public streets.

DID YOU KNOW?

Americans dispose of **25%** more waste during the holiday season (Thanksgiving to New Year's) than at any other time of the year – **about 25 million extra tons**. Packaging like cardboard boxes, gift boxes, and paper is the largest part of the waste stream. Shop with waste reduction in mind and recycle your paper products and packaging.

Sustainable Holidays

- Shop local
- Buy experiences instead of material items
- Donate to a charity
- Reuse paper, bags, decorations, and more!
- Buy sustainable goods
- Reuse or compost leftover food



Take the
Grand Rapids
Recycling
Survey [HERE](#)

Recycling Reality Check Quiz

Have you taken the Recycling Reality Check Quiz yet? Test your knowledge today!

[Take the Quiz Here](#)

WHY RECYCLE?



CONSERVES NATURAL RESOURCES

REDUCES GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

PREVENTS POLLUTION

REDUCES WASTE SENT TO LANDFILLS

4 FACTS ABOUT RECYCLING IN MICHIGAN

More than 70% of our waste stream is readily recyclable

Many of the items that you throw out everyday can be recycled! Check out your local recycling guide to see what can go in the recycling bin!

Michigan is 1 of 10 states that has a bottle deposit system

Michigan is one of only ten states that has a bottle bill that allows plastic, glass and aluminum bottle to be deposited for cash for its residents.

Plastic Shopping Bags can be recycled, just NOT in your recycling bin!

These can be recycled at a local Meijer, Lowes, or Target store (please verify with the store first). You can also search [this list](#) for places that recycle plastic bags.

Give Materials a New Life

Did you know that the Kent County Department of Public Works facilities recycle over 4,000 tons of steel every year? That is nearly enough to build the Gateway Arch in St. Louis!

Find more facts [HERE](#)

For more information click [HERE](#)

THE BASICS OF COMPOSTING

Compost: a dark, crumbly, earthy-smelling soil produced by the decomposition of organic materials.

Did you know you can recycle your food waste through **composting**?

Composting in the winter

- Store leaves in the fall to use as browns over the winter
- Keep your pile or bin close-by to keep it convenient and easy
- Monitor temperature and moisture to keep microbes alive
- Avoid adding large unbroken pieces of wood and pine



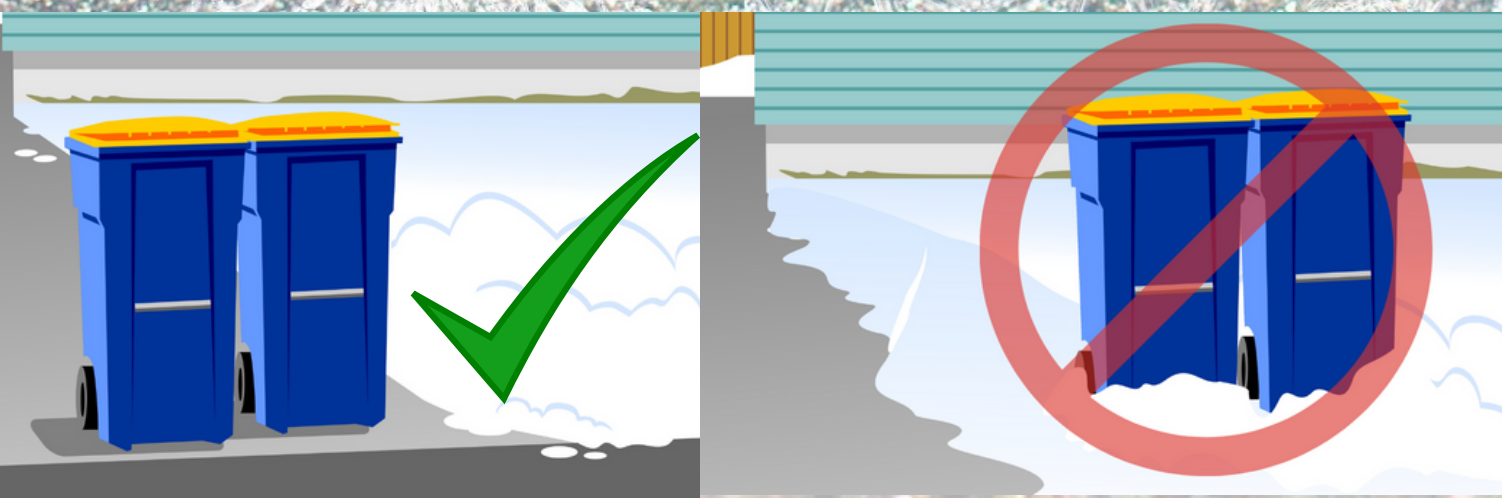
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COMPOSTING AND HOW TO START YOUR OWN PILE
[CLICK HERE!](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YARD WASTE COLLECTION AND THE YARD
WASTE DROP OFF SITE IN GRAND RAPIDS [CLICK HERE!](#)

Want to make sure your trash and recycling gets picked up this winter? Follow these tips:

- Clear a path 3 feet wide from your refuse and recycling carts to the alley or street and make sure the carts can be moved freely
- Shovel out your refuse and recycling carts the night before your collection day!
- Bag your trash – it keeps your cart cleaner and helps us do our job! Un-bagged trash can freeze in the cart, making it difficult to empty. Avoid a partial tip and keep bags and materials from freezing to the bottom by putting a small amount of rock salt in the cart
- Keep the cart lid closed! Melting snow and rain can easily fill and freeze bags to the cart which can result in an overweight or cracked cart. We will not return to empty carts with bags frozen to the cart.
- **REMEMBER:** If your cart is placed on a snow bank, it will NOT be serviced for the safety of our refuse and recycling workers.

For more information about Winter Preparedness [CLICK HERE](#)



HOLIDAY TREE RECYCLING

We offer FREE drop-off sites for Christmas trees after the holidays. All trees collected are chipped and returned naturally to the ground.

The sites, open December 30 to January 31, are located at:

- Riverside Park, 2001 Monroe Ave. NE, north entrance at Boat Launch #3
- MacKay-Jaycees Park, 2531 Kalamazoo Ave. SE
- Lincoln Park, (Garfield Ave. NW entrance) 231 Marion Ave. NW
- Huff Park, (Ball St. parking lot) 2286 Ball Ave. NE





RECYCLING GUIDE

Kent County Recycling & Education Center | reimaginetrash.org



KENT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

RECYCLE THESE ITEMS

CLEAN, EMPTY & LOOSE (NOT BAGGED OR BUNDLED)

CARDBOARD & PAPER



PLASTIC BOTTLES, CUPS & CONTAINERS

Rigid plastics #1-7; no foam or flexible plastics



GLASS BOTTLES & JARS

METAL CANS, BOTTLES & FOIL

MILK, JUICE & SOUP CARTONS



If the cap/lid and container are the same material, keep them attached. If they're different materials, detach and recycle separately.

KEEP OUT OF RECYCLING CONTAINERS!



**SEPARATE
OUT
RECYCLING
TRASH**



No hazardous waste or chemicals:
Batteries, electronics, propane tanks, fuel, chemicals, ammunition or other hazardous waste.



Nothing that would tangle:
Plastic bags, flexible plastics, string lights, extension cords, clothing, hoses, tarps, hangers, etc.



No bundled or bagged recycling:
Recyclables need to be loose in order to be sorted properly.



No foam plastics:
Foam take-out containers or cups, blocks of styro-foam, packing peanuts, foam coolers, etc.

Have an item you'd like to recycle that's not on this guide? We can help!
www.reimaginetrash.org | recycle@kentcountymi.gov | 616-632-7920

DO YOU RECYCLE?

Economic Benefits Environmental Benefits

- Recycling creates American jobs in the recycling industry
- Recycling supplies American manufacturers with raw materials
- Recycling keeps valuable materials out of landfills

- Recycling conserves natural resources and energy
- Recycling is an investment in our community's environmental health
- Recycling prevents pollution and other environmental impacts from raw materials extraction

**BUT
WHERE
DOES IT
ALL GO?**



TO START RECYCLING

www.reimaginetrash.org/recycle