

Recycling Resources

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***Disclaimers:** I may have too many friends who are attorneys. Nevertheless, please know that this list is undoubtedly not complete, though I have tried to make it as accurate as possible. Several commercial businesses are mentioned, also: I'm trying neither to promote them nor to discourage you from using them. I'm just noting that they exist; use them if you wish - or not. Please take this list as it is meant: it's a good place to start, and I hope it will help you become a more aware citizen and recycler.*

General things to consider

The most difficult and expensive steps in recycling anything are getting the recyclable materials together, then getting them ready for whatever physical or chemical steps are part of the recycling process. The most important things for you to do are:



1. **Separate materials by type.** There are some exceptions, notably batteries. Also, plastics of types 1, 2, 3, and 5 (PET/PETE, HDPE, LDPE, and PP) respectively can usually be mixed.
2. **Don't include mixed materials that cannot be easily separated.** Examples include coated papers, wax paper, plastic-coated fabrics, etc.
3. **Make sure the materials are clean and dry.** Food waste should always be removed, for example. In the lists below, we'll assume that all recyclables are cleaned and dried before you even attempt to recycle them.
4. **Do not put your materials to be recycled into plastic bags.** These bags tend to clog the processing equipment; putting your recyclables in a bag will usually result in that bag going straight to the landfill.

Sites to find recycling locations

Some websites offer ways to find recycling containers for all sorts of things. Here are some useful such multiple-waste sites:

Salt Lake County

<https://slco.org/recycle/recycling-in-your-community>

City of Provo

www.provo.org/departments/public-works/sanitation/recycling

For a lot of useful information on what can be recycled and where, check the Salt Lake County Landfill site: <http://www.slwlandfill.slco.org/>

With those things in mind, here's a list of where to recycle most of the common recyclables.

Car batteries

How to prepare it – Just take it out of the car, and dust it off a bit.

Where to recycle it – If you buy a new battery, the store will take the old one. For other batteries, try auto parts stores or car-repair shops that sell batteries. As a last resort, all Utah county landfills accept batteries of all types.

Other batteries

How to prepare them – Just put them together. If you know how to separate them by type, that's OK, but not necessary.

What can't be recycled – Nearly all batteries can be recycled.

Where to recycle them – Most big-box hardware stores (Lowe's, Home Depot, Ace Hardware, etc.) accept batteries. To be sure, check with www.call2recycle.com, which will give you local location, but also sells boxes in which you can mail in your batteries. www.BigGreenBox.com also sells such boxes, a bit more cheaply.

Cardboard and paper

How to prepare it – Break down boxes. It's OK to leave labels, etc. on boxes. Usually, staples can also be left on. Newspapers and magazines are fine.

What can't be recycled - Do not recycle plastic-coated boxes like milk or juice cartons. Also, wrapping paper with foil coatings and things like paper towels containing food wastes or pizza boxes should not be included.

Where to recycle it – Most municipalities will take paper products without problem. If you have boxes suitable for moving, advertise to give away on Nextdoor, etc.

Electronics

How to prepare it – For cellphones, iPads, iPods, desktops, laptops, etc., delete all the files and clean the drive. Here's how: [Don't erase, overwrite: How to avoid being that person who resells a drive with data on it | PCWorld](#).

What can't be recycled – even the oldest electronics can be recycled, so anything – no matter how old – is OK.

Where to recycle it – You may want to consider donating to computerswithcauses.org, which refurbishes working equipment to give to needy individuals throughout the US. Worldcomputerexchange does the same, but worldwide. Greendisk.com recycles hard drives, but not monitors. BestBuy accepts most computers and phones, but charges a fee for monitors. Dell will accept its own products for recycling, as does Apple. Check with the websites of those companies for details.

Fibers (old clothes, etc.)

How to prepare it – Wash, dry, mend if needed and the clothing is otherwise in good shape. Even if the clothing is beyond help and ought to be discarded, donate it instead.

What can't be recycled – Plastic-coated fabrics, especially with vinyl (PVC).

Where to recycle it – Deseret Industries, Goodwill, Big Brothers and Sisters, etc.

Glass

How to prepare it – Some recyclers prefer to receive clear and colored glass separately. Metal caps are virtually always acceptable.

What can't be recycled - Ceramic glass like Corelle® and heat-resistant glass like Pyrex® are not accepted. Light bulbs are also not accepted, but may be accepted at the hazardous waste drop-offs at city or county landfills. Fluorescent lights are accepted at Salt Lake County Libraries, as well as stores like Home Depot, Lowe's, True Value, and Ikea.

Where to recycle it – <https://Utah.momentumrecycling.com> has a list and map of disposal bins along the Wasatch Front.

Metals

How to prepare it – Clean and dry. Separate into three groups: ferrous (iron, steel, etc.), aluminum, everything else.

What can't be recycled -Mercury-containing thermometers or barometers.

Where to recycle it – Commercial metal recyclers (look online for numerous examples)

Motor oil

How to prepare it – Put into a clean jug, bucket, or barrel with a top that closes. Try not to get too much dirt in it.

What can't be recycled – Do not mix motor oil with antifreeze, though minor amounts of transmission fluid and brake fluid are OK.

Where to recycle it – Check out [Recycle Motor Oil Near Me \[Locator Map + Guide + FAQ\]](http://RecycleMotorOilNearMe.com) (junkyardsnearme.net) Basically, all the chain auto parts stores take oil to recycle, but usually take a maximum of 5 gallons or so. Most car dealerships, oil-change chains, and auto repair shops will allow you to recycle a few gallons of oil. Some municipalities, notably the city of Murray, have places to recycle motor oil (see below.)

Plastics

How to prepare it – Plastics should be clean, dry, and solid. You can recycle plastics numbered 1 (PET and PETE), 2 (HDPE), 5 (PP), and solid (but not films or bags) numbered 4 (LDPE). It's OK to leave labels and caps on plastic bottles.

What can't be recycled –Plastics with numbers 3 (PVC) and most plastics numbered 6 (PS), especially foam clamshells, etc. Also, bags or film of almost any material are difficult to recycle because they clog the recycling equipment. Packing foam. Most foamed urethane seat cushions, etc. Any materials with food waste. Zip-lok® and similar bags are usually made with two different types of plastic and do not recycle well, so toss them.

Where to recycle it – Curbside recycling in Salt Lake City and most other communities in the Salt Lake Valley take plastics, as will the county landfill. Plastic (i.e., LDPE, #3) bags can often be returned to grocery stores.

Commercial options, especially if you have lot to recycle, are:

- Momentum Recycling, 657 S. 4150 W., 801-355-0334
- Rocky Mountain Recycling, 2950 W. 900 S., 801-931-4100

Tires

- *How to prepare them* – Best to separate tires from rims. Recycle the rims as steel.
- *Where to recycle them* – If you're buying new tires in Utah, the store will take your old ones. For other situations, you need to check with a tire store or the municipal landfill.

Miscellaneous stuff

The Murray City hazardous waste depot accepts ONLY antifreeze, batteries, oil, and paint. For more information, check their website at [Household Hazardous Waste Disposal | Murray City, UT - Official Website \(utah.gov\)](#)

Here is some information on recycling various specialty items, from the November 2022 AARP Bulletin:

Bicycles – www.ibike.org, the International Bicycle Fund, has a page with information about organizations seeking old bicycles. Local bike shops may also have information.

Boats – Two organizations, www.boatangel.org and www.boatswithcauses.org use the proceeds from selling boats and personal watercraft to fund various causes.

Building materials – Habitat for Humanity runs ReStore stores accepting building materials including flooring, unused lumber, light fixtures, doors, windows, bricks, and fencing. To find the location of the one closest to you, look on www.habitat.org/restores.

Car seats – Around Earth Day (in April) and in the fall, Target stores take kids' car seats for recycling. Also, check www.recycleyourcarseat.org.

Christmas trees – Artificial Christmas trees are NOT recyclable.

Cleaning supplies – the EPA website has lots of information on what you can put down the drain and what needs to be recycled as hazardous waste. The url is www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste. BestBuy will take used vacuum cleaners.

Lawn mowers – Check with the county landfill before dropping it off. You probably need to at least drain the gasoline and oil first.

Luggage – Try the local foster care agency or homeless shelter.

Medical gear – Think crutches, wheelchairs, walkers, etc. Try nursing homes, hospitals, homeless shelters, of the following: www.projectcure.org, www.samaritanspurse.org (call 828-278-1496 before you send), www.med-eq.org.

Paint cans – recycle to the City of Murray facility. If you have relatively new latex paint (i.e., with water as a solvent), leave the can open for a week or two, until it has all solidified; it is then safe to put out for the landfill.

Pharmaceuticals – Unused pharmaceuticals should NOT be put in the garbage, down the drain, or flushed down the toilet. They can be taken to Walgreens, or find a DEA approved site on <https://apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e2s1>

Power tools – Habitat for Humanity's ReStore is the best place.

Rugs – Area rugs, but not carpet or carpet padding should go to Habitat's ReStore.

Televisions – Best Buy will accept them for a nominal fee, or donate working equipment to Deseret Industries, Goodwill, etc.