



The Dos and Don'ts of Battery Recycling

Batteries are a necessity for most of us, but when they are mixed with your garbage and recycling, they can spark fires at local waste and recycling facilities, inside the waste collection vehicle, or even in your containers at home. **Never place batteries—of any type—into your garbage or mixed recycling containers.** Here are some options for the proper disposal of batteries:

Single-Family Homes

Recycle batteries in your red glass recycling bin:

1. Tape the ends of all batteries, except alkaline, with clear packing tape.
 - For button and coin-shaped batteries, wrap tape around the entire battery.
 - Unsure what type of battery it is? Tape it. Better safe than sorry!
2. Place batteries inside a 1-quart, clear, zip-sealed plastic bag.
3. When you have a full bag, place the sealed bag **on top of the glass** in your red glass recycling bin.



Accepted

Any battery that can fit into a 1-quart, zip-sealed plastic bag, including:

- AAA, AA, C, D, button-cell and coin, 6 and 9 volt
- Rechargeable and single-use
- Batteries that can be easily removed from a device like a camera



Not Accepted

- Batteries that are too large to fit in the 1-quart bag
- Damaged, corroded, or bulging batteries
- Items with embedded batteries (toothbrushes, blue tooth headsets, etc.)
- Vape pens or e-cigarettes



Apartments, Condominiums & Businesses

For now, curbside disposal is only available to single-family homes with glass recycling bins. We are working on extending this service to community members living in apartments and condominiums and hope to have a program option later this year or in early 2025.

For other disposal options and more information on battery disposal, please visit www.OregonMetro.gov/FindaRecycler or call Metro's Recycling Information Center at 503-234-3000.



RECYCLING INFORMATION:

RecyclingMail@BeavertonOregon.gov
www.BeavertonOregon.gov/Recycling
503-526-2665



It Starts With Waste Prevention

Recycling is an important part of waste reduction by redirecting discarded material into new products, but **waste prevention** reduces environmental impacts through all stages of the life cycle of materials, from resource extraction to disposal. Here are just a few ways your household may be able to prevent waste, reduce environmental impacts, and possibly save money.

Pass Up Plastic

Avoid plastic—use a refillable water bottle. Our local tap water is safe and much cheaper than bottled water. For the price of a few disposable bottles of water, you can purchase a fun reusable bottle.



Refuse disposable tableware when getting delivery or take out. If you're eating at home, plan to use your own reusable items.



Get some reusable produce bags. Many of us have gotten into the habit of using reusable bags for our groceries. If you haven't already created this habit, now's the time! Step up your game by getting some reusable produce bags to avoid those single-use plastic bags. Contact cityrecycling@BeavertonOregon.gov to get a **FREE** produce bag (while supplies last).

Support your local farmer. Visit the Beaverton Farmers Market, which is open every Saturday from February – November. You can buy produce and much more with zero plastic packaging.

Reuse & Repair

Another great way to prevent waste is to reuse what you already have. This might mean repairing something that's broken or gently used. The word "repair" can be intimidating for some people but it doesn't have to be—there are many resources to help you repair items yourself or even find someone that will do it for you, and it's typically cheaper than buying something new.

- **Repair Fairs**—Local events where volunteers help you fix your broken items, ranging from mending the zipper on your favorite backpack to repairing an old vacuum, and much more. www.RepairFair.org
- **iFixit**—A website full of tutorials on how to fix an assortment of electronics. www.ifixit.com
- **Portland Repair Finder**—It's not just for Portland! Search for local repair shops for a variety of items. www.portlandrepairfinder.com
- **Reuse**—Purchase from or donate to a local reuse shop like Habitat for Humanity ReStore or thrift stores, or check out your local Facebook Buy Nothing group.





Reduce Your Food Waste

Nobody likes throwing away money, so why do nearly all of us throw away food? Spoiled food costs the average Oregon household more than \$1,600 each year! Plus, it wastes all the resources used to grow, transport, and sell the food.

Confusing date labels is just one of the reasons food is wasted. Phrases like “Best By” and “Sell-By” can be misleading and cause many of us to throw away perfectly good food. Don’t worry—we’ve got some tips to help you understand what those dates mean and how to test your food so that you can save money and natural resources by preventing food waste.



Food date labels are not regulated, nor do they indicate food safety, with the exception of infant formula. These dates are intended to be guides for when the food is at its peak quality, but do not indicate whether the food is safe to eat.

Here’s what those date labels mean:

- A **Best if Used By/Before** date indicates when a product will be of best flavor or quality. It is not a purchase or safety date.
- A **Sell-By** date tells the store how long to display the product for sale for inventory management. It is not a safety date.
- A **Use-By** date is the last date recommended for the use of the product while at peak quality. It is not a safety date except for when used on infant formula.
- A **Freeze-By** date indicates when a product should be frozen to maintain peak quality. It is not a purchase or safety date.

Source: USDA - <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/food-safety/safe-food-handling-and-preparation/food-safety-basics/food-product-dating>

Just check it! Food that has been stored and handled properly should still be safe to eat past the packaging date, until spoilage is evident. Spoiled foods will often have a different smell, texture, or taste. Check your food before tossing it.

Quick tips to determine if food is unsafe to eat:

- **Milk:** Bad milk will develop a sour smell and taste and may become lumpy. Sniff it before filling up your bowl of cereal.
- **Eggs:** Eggs can last a long time after the package date. Spoiled, uncracked eggs don’t usually smell bad so test them by dunking them in water. Place the eggs in enough water to cover them, if they sink, they’re good to eat; if they float, don’t (and avoid cracking them as they will stink once opened). If they stand on their end, eat them soon.
- **Meat:** Bad meat will have a foul odor and will often get slimy.

Next time you’re tempted to throw out the food because it’s past the date on the package, stop and check it first. If it has spoiled, remove it from the packaging and place the spoiled food into your compost cart. If you don’t have curbside compost service, place the spoiled food into your garbage.

Visit www.EatSmartWasteLess.com to get more food waste prevention tips.

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE



Garbage



All trash including plastic bags, to-go containers, lids, and packaging

No TVs, computers, batteries, or hazardous waste



Recycling



Empty and rinsed plastic bottles and plastic round containers (six ounces or larger and five gallons or less), metal, paper, and flattened cardboard

No plastic bags or wrap, lids, glass, garbage, or block foam



Get a recycling guide for your cart—contact us at cityrecycling@BeavertonOregon.gov to get a free recycling sticker for your mixed recycling cart!



Compost



Food scraps, yard waste, food soiled napkins and paper towels, tea bags, and pizza delivery boxes

No plastic bags, compostable containers and utensils, to-go containers, or pet waste



Glass



Bottles and jars only, empty and dry, placed in a glass bin

No lids, lightbulbs, caps, ceramics, or broken glass

Batteries



Include alkaline, button cell and rechargeable batteries.

Tape ends of all batteries, except alkaline. Put in a one-quart zip-sealed plastic bag and place on top of glass bin. Single-family customers only; not available at apartments or businesses.

Motor Oil



Set motor oil next to bins in a clear plastic jug with a lid.

Use a one-gallon, see-through, break-resistant bottle with a screw top lid. Single-family customers only; not available at apartments or businesses.

Beyond the Curb

Many materials can be recycled or reused, even if they cannot go into your mixed recycling. For information about where to take materials for recycling or reuse “beyond the curb,” contact us at cityrecycling@BeavertonOregon.gov, 503-526-2665, or visit Metro’s Find A Recycler website at www.OregonMetro.gov/FindaRecycler.

Far West Recycling

FarWestRecycling.com • 503-643-9944

Far West Recycling has a public recycling depot where you can drop off hard-to-recycle items that are not accepted in your recycling.



Household Hazardous Waste

OregonMetro.gov/HHW • 503-234-3000

Metro has two drop-off facilities that are open all year. A \$5 fee may be required for up to 35 gallons of material. Free neighborhood events may be held at select locations.



Electronics

OregonEcycles.org • 1-888-5-ECYCLE

There are more than a dozen Oregon E-cycles free drop-off locations in and around Beaverton.



Paint

PaintCare.org • 1-855-724-6809

PaintCare is a free recycling program for paint, stains, and sealers. Material must be in its original container, have a legible label and a secured lid. No open or leaking cans are accepted.



Large Items

BeavertonOregon.gov/Recycling • 503-526-2665

Your garbage & recycling hauler offers large item collection service for reasonable rates. Contact your waste hauling company directly. If you live in an apartment, contact your property manager for proper disposal options.



Other Items

OregonMetro.gov/FindaRecycler
503-234-3000

For up-to-date information about special items, such as plastic bags, fluorescent light bulbs, block foam, or foam peanuts.



Medications

MedTakeBackOregon.org • 844-482-5322

There are many free, safe and secure disposal options for unwanted medications. Never dispose of medications down the drain—take them to a safe take-back location.



Deposit Containers

BottleDrop.com

BottleDrop is the most convenient way to redeem your Oregon beverage containers at one of their redemption centers, retailers, or grocery stores.



Why Recycle?

Recycling redirects discarded items into new products. When you place the correct items into your recycling bin, you are providing a source for new items which avoids the need to extract raw resources from Earth.

Most recycling materials go through some kind of process to convert them into a material that can be used in a new product. Metal is melted and purified, paper is made into a pulp, and plastic is often turned into chips or pellets.

These materials are then used to create new products. This avoids or reduces some of the need to extract raw resources like timber, minerals, and petroleum. This reduction in resource extraction is the key to why recycling is so important.



Commercial Food and Recycling Resources



Did you know that all businesses in Beaverton are required to recycle? Most food businesses, in addition to recycling, are required to separate food scraps from their garbage so that they can be processed in a more environmentally friendly way.

City recycling staff offer **free assistance and resources** for setting up recycling, improving on existing recycling, and helping food businesses get set up with a food scraps collection system. Our staff also provide free trainings and other resources to help make recycling and food scrap collection easy and successful for your business.

Multi-Family Resources

Apartment and condominium property managers in Beaverton are required to provide recycling for all their tenants. In addition, they are required to educate their tenants about recycling at least once a year.

The city's recycling program has various **free resources** to help apartments and condominiums recycle properly including recycling tote bags, flyers, door hangers, and more.

If your apartment or condominium could use some help recycling right, please reach out to us at cityrecycling@BeavertonOregon.gov to schedule a site visit with our informed and friendly staff.



Contact us for your free recycling tote bag at cityrecycling@BeavertonOregon.gov!



Mattress Disposal

Coming soon: convenient and free mattress disposal! Oregon passed a law that requires mattress producers to share the responsibility of mattress disposal. This means that mattresses



will soon become easier to dispose of at the end of their lives. Convenient collection facilities should become available in late 2024—stay tuned for more information as this new law rolls out.

Meanwhile, if you have a mattress to dispose of, please contact your garbage company directly (www.BeavertonOregon.gov/whosmyhauler). If you live in an apartment or condominium, please reach out to your property manager for guidance on how to properly dispose of your mattress.

This document is available in other languages and formats upon request.

Este documento está disponible en otros idiomas y formatos para quien lo solicite

本文档是可用在其他语言和格式

Tài liệu này có sẵn trong các ngôn ngữ khác và các định dạng theo yêu cầu

توفر هذه الوثيقة باللغات وغيرها من الأشكال بناء على طلبها

이 문서는 요청에 따라 다른 언어와 형식으로 사용할 수 있습니다

このドキュメント(文書)は、ご希望に応じて、他の言語と形式にてご利用頂けます

Этот документ доступен на других языках и форматах по запросу

WM

7227 NE 55TH Avenue

Portland, OR 97218-1215

Become a Master Recycler

The Master Recycler Program is a community engagement volunteer corps focused on sustainable consumption, climate protection, environmental justice, saving food, toxics reduction, repair, reuse, composting, and recycling.

If you love talking to your friends and family about recycling and waste prevention and are interested in volunteering in your community, then the Master Recycler Program may be for you!

To become a Master Recycler you enroll in a free 7-week, in person, training course. Once you graduate you commit to 30 hours of community engagement, which can be completed in a variety of ways ranging from helping out at local community events to hosting your own presentation for family, friends or even at work.

This year, Beaverton will be hosting the fall class in September/October at Beaverton City Hall. Registration begins in early June. To learn more and to apply for the class, please visit www.masterrecycler.org.

