

Waste-Sorting Tips for Multifamily Residents

This is a strange and unprecedented time, and we find ourselves needing remote education strategies for the time being. Now more than ever, it is important to sort waste correctly. I hope that this resource helps you and your fellow neighbors continue to recycle and compost during the shelter-in-place mandate.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions: Justin Wilcock at justin@sonomacorr.com

Paper Recycling Items Accepted (yellow side)

- All clean paper products that *do not have a plastic lining*
- Cardboard and cardstock, but make sure it is broken down and flattened. If you run out of room for cardboard, stack it neatly outside of the cart(s)
- **Quick Tip:** If you are ordering from Amazon during this time, switch to their sustainable packaging option online. Once selected, they will only send boxes filled with paper packaging materials or *truly* biodegradable materials like starch-based packing peanuts (which melt in water!)

RECYCLING CLEAN PAPER PRODUCTS ONLY



UNWAXED CARDBOARD & PAPERBOARD



NEWSPAPER & MIXED PAPER

NO PLASTIC BAGS
NO CARTONS
NO GLASS
NO COATED PAPER



DO NOT BAG RECYCLABLES



Container Recycling Items Accepted (blue side)

- The plastics we take can be divided into 3 categories:
 - Bottles: Water bottles, 2-liter bottles, shampoo bottles, etc. We do not take miniature/travel-sized plastic bottles
 - Jugs: Milk jugs, water jugs, detergent jugs
 - Tubs: larger, multi-serving plastic tubs
- The number in the triangle **does not** mean it is recyclable. Use our guides to sort correctly
- We do not take ANY black plastic items
- Glass beverage bottles and jars; reusable glassware (i.e. a wine glass) **doesn't go in here** as it is a different type of glass
- Aluminum and tin cans, trays, and foil
- **Quick Tip:** It is important to ensure recyclables are clean, but you do not have to use soap and water. Scraping the sides of a peanut butter or jelly jar is good enough. A quick rinse of a dirty bottle, jug, tub, or aluminum can/tray/foil is helpful but not necessary unless there is heavy/thick residue on it

RECYCLING CLEAN BOTTLES, CANS & CONTAINERS ONLY



PLASTIC BOTTLES, JUGS & TUBS



GLASS BOTTLES & JARS



METAL CANS & CONTAINERS

NO PAPER ITEMS
NO PLASTIC BAGS
NO COMPOSTABLE PLASTICS
NO CLAMSHELLS/STYROFOAM



DO NOT BAG RECYCLABLES



Compostable Items Accepted (Green Cart)

- **If you don't have green carts, this does not apply to you!**
- All yard waste/landscaping trimmings
- All food scraps
- Food soiled-paper products (pizza boxes, used paper plates *without a plastic coating*, napkins, coffee filters etc.)
- No “compostable” or “biodegradable” plastic products (bags, cups, cutlery, etc.). While they say they can break down properly, **they actually cannot**. The micro-plastic particles remain in the compost.
- **Quick Tip:** Putting a compost pail in the fridge or freezer greatly reduces the smell that comes with food scrap composting.



Trash Items Accepted (Dark Gray Cart or Dumpster):

- All plastic bags, cups, clamshell containers, cutlery, or other plastic items that don't fit the description for the brown cart—including the “compostable” plastics
- Small plastic bottles (less than 6 inches tall) and single-use juice pouches or boxes
- Mixed plastic items (i.e., items made using different types of plastic)
- Glass cups or broken glassware
- Diapers and pet waste
- Single-use coffee cups, milk cartons, and other plastic-lined paper products
- Styrofoam products
- **Quick Tip:** If you are unsure whether an item is recyclable or not, put it in the trash. “When in doubt, throw it out” is the safest option if you can't figure out where an item should go. We encourage you to use our new tools below before throwing away questionable items.



Items NOT Accepted in ANY Waste Streams:

- Batteries
- Needles and other dangerous items
- Anything that could be listed as “E-waste” (or electronic waste); this would be appliances, cell-phones, TV's, computers, etc.
- Anything that could be listed as “Hazardous waste” (i.e. paint, medical waste, cleaning supplies, etc.)



Helpful Resources—Now and Always:

- Check out Zero Waste Sonoma for additional information www.zerowastesonoma.gov
- Multifamily specific resources can be found on our website [here](#) (click the link to visit a page on our website).
- We highly encourage you to put up posters where the waste enclosures are located. Posters are a final reminder when someone is disposing of their waste. You can request posters for your complex [here](#).



Thank you for caring about waste reduction and recycling/composting correctly! It will take all of us to get to zero waste.