

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT RECYCLING AND TRASH

1. What do I do with alkaline batteries?

A. All alkaline batteries (AAA, AA, C, D, 9 Volt and etc.) can be thrown away in your regular household trash. They used to be made with mercury, but that hasn't been the case in years.

2. What batteries are recyclable?

A. All rechargeable batteries should be recycled. These rechargeables include batteries used for your cell phone, your laptop computer, your power tools, green top or "rechargeable" AAA, AA, C, D or 9 Volts, and etc. If you plug it in to recharge it, it can be recycled.

3. Can I recycle my car battery? (boat, motorcycle, riding lawn mower or tractor batteries as well.)

A. We take car batteries, and all liquid acid batteries, at the transfer station for \$2.00 per battery, but your battery dealer will take your used battery when you purchase a new one. Most often, the dealer will either apply a credit towards your new battery or pay a cash amount back to you for your old battery.

4. What do I do with fluorescent light bulbs and CFLs (compact fluorescent lights)?

A. All fluorescent bulbs are recyclable. At the transfer station, we charge \$1.00 per bulb, but you can recycle them for FREE at any ACE Hardware or True Value Hardware store in New Hampshire. Home Depot will take the CFLs for free, but not the straight, u-shaped or round fluorescent bulbs.

5. Can my plastic bags go in my recycling cart?

A. **NO!** All plastic bags (even the ones with recycling symbols on them) should go in your curbside trash. They are not wanted in the recycling by the folks who process our single stream recycling. The bags gum up the works of the mechanical sorters at the materials handling facilities. See URL link below. **However, please see items 6 & 7 below for alternative recycling opportunities.**

<http://www.ziploc.com/Sustainability/Pages/Recyclability-and-Earning-Rewards.aspx>

6. I hear that plastic grocery store/box retail store bags are recyclable, how can I do that?

**A. These plastic can be recycled**, but take your plastic bags to Wal-Mart or your favorite grocery store. Most of these places have cardboard boxes to recycle your plastic bags. These bags do not end up at a single stream recycling facility and will be recycled. **This recycling does not refer to green or black plastic yard or utility bags. Also, see item7 below.**

7. Can I recycle the plastic sleeves my newspaper comes in?

**A. YES!** Ask the person who delivers your paper if they will take them back. Many paper carriers now have to purchase those sleeves, so they may take them back. You can pack several of them into one sleeve and leave them for your carrier to reuse.

8. Can I recycle all plastic?

**A. NO!** Many plastics cannot be recycled. **Only plastics with a recycling symbol marked with the numbers 1 through 7 can be recycled here in Hampton.** With that said, not all plastics can be melted down and blended to create “new plastic” plastics products. Plastics such as toys, Styrofoam, plastic wrap and your plastic bags, cannot be recycled in this part of the country because, there is no reprocessing facility for these plastics in the Northeast, which means there is no market for the material. This is why you may hear that some communities across the country do recycle items that are not recycled here and vice versa. The recycle symbol and number only indicate to the manufacturers and reprocessing facilities what the material is made from.

9. Can I recycle pizza boxes with my cardboard?

**A. NO!** Frozen pizza boxes from the grocery store are most often sprayed with a waxed coating to prevent freezer burn. This prohibits the cardboard from breaking down into fibers to be recycled. Takeout pizza boxes from restaurants often end up with sauce, oil, cheese or other food products sticking to the cardboard, thus contaminating the cardboard such that the fibers cannot be separated from the contaminate making the cardboard unrecyclable. See URL link below.

<http://www.seekingwholeness.com/wellness/environmental/why-cant-i-recycle-this-pizza-box>

10. Can I recycle drinking glasses, glass cookware and ceramics?

- A. **NO!** Drinking glasses, glass cookware and ceramics are made differently than glass bottles and jars. Drinking glasses, cookware and ceramics are made to be washed and used over and over again, while glass bottles and jars are made to be used once and then recycled. The two different types of glass and ceramics cannot be melted and mixed together. See URL link below.

[http://www.ehow.com/about\\_6606613\\_can-drinking-glasses-recycled\\_.html](http://www.ehow.com/about_6606613_can-drinking-glasses-recycled_.html)

11. Can I put full food containers in with the recycling?

- A. **NO!** Food containers, be they plastic, glass, aluminum or tin must be empty and rinsed clean to be placed in with your recycling. The same is true for cardboard boxes. They must be empty. If you have full containers of food that have not expired, try donating them to a local food pantry.

12. Can I recycle Styrofoam with a recycle symbol and number on it?

- A. **NO!** All forms of styrofoam (food trays, packing peanuts, rigid packing styrofoam and etc.) are not recyclable with our vendor, even if they have a recycle symbol on them.

13. What do I do with ashes from my wood stove?

- A. **DO NOT** put ashes of any kind in with your trash or recyclables, even if you “know” there are no embers hidden away. Here at the transfer station, do not put them in the trash or in the compost pile. We have a separate location for ashes, so please ask when you come in.

14. What do I do with tires?

- A. Tires need to be taken to a dealer or a garage. You will probably be charged a fee for recycling the tires. We **DO NOT** take them at the Hampton Transfer Station.

15. What do I do with my household thermostats?

- A. Do not throw your thermostats away. Bring them to the transfer station to be handled properly. **DO NOT** break the glass bulb inside the thermostat, as your thermostat(s) may contain mercury, which is a hazardous material. Depending on its age, the plastic body of the thermostat may indicate that it “contains mercury,” which is a silver liquid encased in a small glass bulb inside the device. Do not throw these away with your trash, as mercury is a toxic chemical.

16. What items can we not bring into the transfer station?

- A. We do not take Explosives or Flammables of any kind (including but not limited to ammunition, fireworks, black powder, smokeless powder, gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel and etc.); Asbestos; Liquid Paints, Varnishes and Stains; Yard and Pool Chemicals; Pesticides; Poisons; Anti-Freeze; Solvents; Hazardous Waste. We also do not take Tires.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ABOUT TRASH & RECYCLING CARTS

1. Where do I get carts?
  - A. New carts are obtained from the Hampton Transfer Station, located on Hardardt's Way.
  
2. If I don't see an answer to my question here, where do I call?
  - A. Please call either the Hampton Public Works Office at: 603-926-4402 or call the Transfer Station at: 603-929-5930.
  
3. If my cart(s) are not picked up, who do I call?
  - A. If your cart is not picked up on your normal collection day, please call the Hampton Public Works office at 603-926-4402. Before doing that, however, please read item 4 below.
  
4. My cart wasn't picked up, why?
  - A. If either your trash or recycling cart is not picked up, it should have had a sticker placed on the cart by the driver explaining why. However, things you can ask yourself are: Were the carts placed at the curb? Were they facing the curb properly, with the handles pointed away from the road? Were the carts easily accessible, meaning were they at least 2 to 3 feet away from trees, parked cars, fences, fire hydrants, telephone poles, walls, each other and etc.? Was there recycling in my trash? Was there trash in my recycling? Was it placed curbside by 5 AM in the morning (from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in June through the Seafood Festival weekend) or by 6 AM the rest of the year? Was it placed at the curb on the correct collection day? Was the lid of the cart closed, or were items sticking up out of the cart? These are all reasons why the cart(s) may not have been picked up. If any item was left behind was it inside the cart? Items not inside carts will not be picked up. Was it an item that needs to be paid for at the transfer station?
  
5. What size cart do I need?
  - A. We have three sizes of carts for both trash and recycling. They are 35 gallons, 64 gallons and 96 gallons. The trash carts are **BLUE** and the recycling carts are **GREEN**. At the transfer station, we can help you figure out what size cart you will need.

6. Can I change the size of my cart?

A. Yes. If your cart is not the right size, you can exchange it for a larger or smaller size cart, but keep in mind, if you have a 96 gallon cart, and that's not large enough, you will need to purchase an additional cart. The same is true in so far as we have no cart smaller than the 35 gallon carts. When carts are returned to the transfer station to be swapped out, they should be clean. Please remember, that we are not here to swap out carts on an "as needed" basis forever.

7. If I need to purchase an additional cart, what do they cost?

A. 35 gallons = \$38 each  
64 gallons = \$45 each  
96 gallons = \$47 each

8. I've heard that some people have to purchase the carts. Who has to purchase the carts, and who gets them for free?

A. The first **BLUE** and **GREEN** carts you use for residential trash and recycling are free. Any additional carts need to be paid for. Carts being used for commercial or business purposes must be paid for.

9. I have rental property used for residential purposes, do I have to pay for the carts or do my tenants have to pay?

A. If the carts are used for residential purposes, they are free.

10. I have properties that are used for both commercial and residential purposes. Do I have to pay?

A. In these dual use properties, the carts used by the residents are free, but the carts used by the business(es) must be paid for, and the residential and commercial trash and recycling should not be mixed together.

11. With the new carts, has my collection day changed for either trash or recycling?

A. No, your collection day should stay the same as it has been. However, delayed service could happen if there is foul weather, equipment problems or some other reason to cause a delay. If you have a question about a delay, feel free to contact the Public Works Department at 926-4402.

12. How can I recycle my shredded paper?

- A. Your shredded paper can be recycled inside your recycling cart or it can be brought to the transfer station. We ask you NOT to store your shredded paper inside of plastic bags, but to use cardboard boxes or paper bags instead. (Remember, plastic bags are not wanted if they are mixed in with single-stream recyclables.)

13. If my cart is damaged, how do I replace it?

- A. If damage is done to your cart by a town employee, then bring the cart in, and we will either replace a broken part or issue a new cart to you at no cost to you. If the damage is done by some other means, you may have to purchase a new one.

14. What do I do if my cart is stolen or lost?

- A. If your cart is stolen, please contact the transfer station at: 603-929-5930. We will give you the serial number of the cart(s) that were issued to your address. You will then need to file a police report with the Hampton Police Department, along with the serial number(s), before we can issue a new cart to you. The serial numbers are the numbers on the front of each cart beginning with either the numbers 35, 64 or 96. It is best that you record these numbers someplace for each property or business that you may own.

15. Is it okay to put my address on my carts?

- A. YES! Please feel free to write the address where the carts are being used on the carts that were issued to you. Remember, we have recorded the serial numbers of each cart and the addresses they were issued to.

