

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is recyclable at the County Transfer Stations (TS)?

Glass, plastic, aluminum, cardboard, batteries, used oil, and HHW are all accepted for FREE.

Where else can I take it?

Recyclables can also be taken to various non-county facilities and programs in Mono County that accept recyclables. Some of these facilities pay market rates for certain recyclables. The TS Attendant can provide a map of these facilities at your request.

Where does the recycling go?

Recyclables collected at the Bridgeport and Walker TSs are shipped to a processing center in Gardnerville, NV. Recyclables collected at Pumice Valley and south are taken to a processing facility in Big Pine. From these centers, the commodities are shipped and sold to market.

Why don't I get paid to drop recyclables at the County?

The County's program was designed in order to encourage and enable recycling in the county, but the infrastructure that facilitates the marketing of recyclables (scales, crushers, balers, storage and transportation) have not yet been invested in. With the County's current infrastructure,

the cost of transportation of the materials is greater than the price the county receives for the materials once delivered to market.

Why should I recycle?

Although the County does not pay for recyclables, recycling does pay. By reducing the volume of garbage you take to the TS, or have picked up by a waste hauler, you save money. Of course, recycling is the environmentally responsible choice.

DUMP ALL THESE ITEMS FOR FREE AND SAVE \$\$



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE—Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients are considered to be household hazardous waste (HHW). Some examples are old gasoline, paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides. Disposing of HHW in the trash is dangerous and **ILLEGAL**—they are accepted for **FREE** at all TSs, so please separate and dispose of them properly!



USED OIL AND FILTERS—The county accepts used motor oil and filters for free. They are hauled out of the county for later processing. Used motor oil is filtered, refined and re-sold! Oil doesn't get old, it just gets dirty!



ALUMINUM—All aluminum products are accepted for recycling—cans, aluminum foil, pie tins and baking dishes. Please clean any baked-on food from aluminum before placing in bin.



PLASTIC—All numbered plastic containers are recyclable at Mono County Transfer Stations. Please remove lids and **RINSE** any container that held a perishable product. Please place containers into bins loose—not in bags.



GLASS—All glass containers are accepted at the Transfer Stations. Household glass such as coffee pots, vases and glass cookware are not recyclable at our facilities. Please remove lids from containers and rinse before placing in recycling bins. The weight of glass in a typical garbage can represents as much as 20% of the total weight!



BATTERIES—are HHW and should never be thrown in the garbage. TSs accept all standard (AA, 9V) batteries, computer batteries, and automobile batteries.



FLOURESCENT BULBS AND MERCURY DEVICES—County TSs accept all fluorescent tubes and other mercury devices such as thermometers, switches, thermostats and barometers. These items are then shipped out of the county and properly disposed.



CARDBOARD—Clean Old Corrugated Cardboard (OCC) is recycled at the TS, but the bins are for clean OCC only. Please keep do not place waxed cardboard, or chip-board (cereal boxes) into the OCC recycling bin.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1. The number of aluminum cans produced every minute is: **350,000 cans**
2. Number of trees required to produce Sunday newspapers in North America: **500,000 trees**
3. Number of plastic bottles thrown away every hour: **25,000,000 bottles**
4. Amount of litter discarded on an average mile of US highway at any given time: **1,457 pieces**
5. How much of the polyester carpet made in the United States is made from recycled plastic (PET)? **50%**
6. Each year Americans throw away how many Styrofoam cups? **25,000,000,000 (25 billion) cups**
7. The energy saved from just one recycled aluminum can will operate a television set for how many hours? **Three hours**
8. The energy saved from just one recycled aluminum can will light a 100-watt light bulb for how many hours? **Four hours**
9. One gallon of oil can contaminate how many gallons of water? **One million – a year's supply for 50 people.**
10. How much food waste is generated in one year by the average family of four? **1,000 pounds (through composting, nearly 25% of a household's waste can be diverted).**
11. How many tons of junk mail is delivered annually in the United States? **4 million tons**
12. How many gallons of water per minute does a standard shower head use? **5-7 gallons - A 5-minute shower can consume 35 gallons of water.**
13. How many trees are used to produce one ton of 100% virgin (non-recycled) newsprint? **12 trees**
14. If every household reused a paper grocery bag for just one shopping trip, about how many trees would be saved? **60,000 trees**
15. Each ton of recycled office paper can save how many gallons of oil? **380 gallons**
16. When you toss out one aluminum can you waste as much energy as if you'd filled the same can half-full of gasoline and poured it into the ground.
17. What is the percentage of recycled aluminum is contained in each new aluminum can? **More than 50%**
18. True or False? States with bottle deposit (CRV) laws have 35-40% less litter by volume. **True**
19. A modern glass bottle takes how many years or more to decompose? **4,000 years**
20. On average, each person produces how many pounds of solid waste each day? **4 pounds**
21. Plastic bags and other plastic garbage thrown into the ocean kill how many creatures every year. **1 million**
22. True or False: There is no limit to the amount of times an aluminum can can be recycled. **True**
23. The average American uses how many pounds of paper per year? **650 pounds**
24. Each year the average American uses how many steel cans? **142 steel cans**
25. Nationwide, what percentage of all aluminum cans were recycled in 2000? **62%**
26. How many plastic bottles do Americans use in just one hour? **2.5 million bottles**
27. True or False? Americans throw away enough office and writing paper each year to build a wall twelve-feet high stretching from NYC to LA. **True**
28. One ton of recycled newspaper will save how many trees? **17 trees**
29. What is the only material that is 100% recyclable (meaning it can be recycled again and again without loss of any quality)? **Glass**
30. A ton of recycled steel will save how many pounds of iron ore? **2,500 pounds**
31. A ton of recycled steel will save how many pounds of coal? **1,400 pounds**
32. Every day American businesses generate enough paper to circle the Earth how many times? **20 times**
33. The average baby will use approximately how many diapers before they're potty trained? **10,000 diapers**
34. Aluminum cans thrown away today will still be a can for how many years before it will start decomposing? **500 years**
35. Time required for an average North American to discard the equivalent of his or her own body weight: **7 weeks**
36. The Ford Motor Company indicates that what % of every vehicle is recyclable? **75%**
37. How many pounds of pollutants can one tree filter by the photosynthesis process? **60 pounds**
38. The average adult receives how many pounds of junk mail each year? **41 pounds**
39. How many gallons of water does it take to run a cycle in a typical washing machine? **32 to 59 gallons (washing machines use about 15% of your house's water)**
40. What percentage of the United States municipal solid waste stream is paper? **39%**
41. The junk mail Americans receive in one day could produce enough energy to heat how many homes? **250,000 homes**
42. Recycling just one ton of paper saves enough energy to power an average home for how many months? **Six months**
43. The average American household generates how many pounds of hazardous waste each year? **15 pounds (most of it is disposed im- properly)**
44. How many tons of household hazardous waste is estimated to exist in the municipal solid waste stream right now? **1.6 million tons**
45. Every year, the average American throws out how many pounds of organic garbage which can be composted? **1,200 pounds**
46. How many quarts of re-refined lubricating oil can be produced from one gallon of used oil? **2.5 quarts**
47. True or False? It takes less energy to produce a gallon of re-refined oil than it does to produce a gallon from crude oil. **True**
48. How many used oil filters are generated each year in the United States? **425 million**

