

FAQ

Preparing Materials For Disposal Or Recycling

[Styrofoam \(TM\)](#)
[Recyclable vs Compostable Papers](#)
[Yard / Woody Debris](#)
[Window Blinds, Curtains & Draperies](#)
[Lighting](#)
[FoodPlus!](#)
[Hazardous Waste](#)
[Liquids](#)
[Burn Barrels](#)
[Plastic Containers](#)
[Fireworks](#)
[FoodPlus! Holiday Wrap / Packaging](#)
[Plastics - Film & Rigid](#)
[Pots, Pans, Skillets & Cookie Sheets](#)
[Smoke Alarms & Carbon Monoxide Detectors](#)
[FoodPlus! Seasonal/Celebration/Holiday Items](#)
[Garbage and Recyclable Collection](#)
[Shredded Paper](#)
[Infant Car Seats](#)
[Gasoline](#)
[Garments, Textiles & Fabric Art Supplies](#)
[Old Corrugated Cardboard \(OCC\) & Wax-Coated Boxes](#)
[Fiberglass Insulation](#)
[Paint and Paint Products](#)
[Polycoated / Paper Cartons \(Refrigerator/Freezer\)](#)
[Vinyl Siding \(PVC\)](#)
[Oily Rags and old Shop Towels](#)
[Canisters & Tanks \(Helium, Propane\)](#)
[Cooking Oil](#)
[Coffee Pods \(aka Keurig K-Cups\)](#)
[Aerosol Cans \(Non-Hazardous\) & Fire Extinguishers](#)
[Pet Waste](#)
[Mattresses](#)
[Appliances \(White Goods\)](#)
[Paperback Books / Guides / Manuals](#)
[Tires](#)
[X-Rays & MRI's](#)
[License Plates](#)
[\(Powdered\) Cement](#)
[Aseptic Containers \(non-refrigerated, shelf-stable\)](#)
[Antifreeze](#)
[Carpet & Carpet Padding](#)
[Golf Clubs](#)
[Medicines & Sharps](#)
[Marijuana Waste](#)
[Glass & Mirrors](#)
[Cables, Cords, Holiday Lights and Wire](#)
[Batteries - All Types](#)
[E-Waste \(Electronics\)](#)
[Used Motor Oil & Oil Filters](#)

Preparing Materials For Disposal Or Recycling

Styrofoam (TM)

Unfortunately, no *recycling* options are available in our area for Styrofoam™. Consider these reuse options:

Contact local postal, mailing and shipping outlets directly about accepting clean, dry Styrofoam™ packing "peanuts" for reuse. These two businesses have accepted them in the past. Contact first to check status:

Post & Parcel

Coolers and similar large packing blocks: Check with the company or organization that delivered or shipped them about taking the packaging back intact.

If you cannot find a reuse option, Styrofoam™ can be placed in your garbage for disposal. Please bag Styrofoam™ packing "peanuts" and other smaller pieces to prevent windblown litter.

Styrofoam is not accepted in the Food Plus! program. Please note this should you use Styrofoam as a filler in plant pots, vases, etc.

For other reuse ideas, visit: <http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/photos/0,,20349692,00.html>

Recyclable vs Compostable Papers

Not sure about what paper goes in the recycling bin and what can go in your FoodPlus! Toter for composting?

Many papers are compostable, but not all papers are recyclable. For SSC customers, the great news is you have the option to keep all paper out of the landfill by either recycling it in your curbside recycling bin or putting it in your FoodPlus! Toter if you subscribe to this service.

Recyclable Papers

(Place recyclable papers in your scrap paper recycling bin)

Generally, these are high quality papers that get the best market price when they are recycled. They include copy paper, letterhead, envelopes, magazines, old mail, paperboard food boxes used for pastas, cereals, etc., paper tubes from paper towel, toilet paper, gift wrap rolls. These types of papers should be recycled in your paper curbside recycling bin.

Multi-family (apartment/condo dwellers) and commercial customers with Toter recycling service, please place these types of papers in your **Scrap Paper** recycling Toter.

Compostable Papers

(Place compostable papers in your FoodPlus! Toter)

These types of paper(s) are not recyclable, but are still compostable. They include any food-soiled papers (including paper plates, napkins, paper towels, pizza boxes, etc.), all refrigerator and freezer containers like milk/dairy/ice cream cartons, frozen food boxes, juice cartons and frozen juice containers (recycle metal lids and plastic strip separately please), to-go/deli type cartons, parchment and waxed paper, paper plates, towels, napkins, tablecloths, bowls and cups, "compostable" tableware and utensils (corn, bamboo, potato-based, etc.) and tissue paper. These products should be placed in your FoodPlus! Toter for composting if you are a FoodPlus! subscriber.

For a complete list of items that can go in your FoodPlus! Toter [click here](#).

NOTE: Aseptic cartons and boxes (non-refrigerated, shelf-stable) ex. juice boxes, juice pouches, milk/dairy beverage cartons, soup/broth cartons, etc. or paper with foil or plastic (ex. foil gift wrap, (TYVEK) postal envelopes) are neither recyclable nor compostable in our area at this time. They should be disposed of in your garbage.

Yard / Woody Debris

Yes.

Small volumes - Extra charges apply to collect bulky or bundled materials. Tied bundles should be no longer than four (4) feet and weigh no more than 50 lbs. Please [contact us](#) for current rates and additional information.

Large volumes - We also offer [dumpster](#) and [dropbox](#) rentals for large amounts of yard waste or woody debris four (4) feet or longer (max. 20 feet long in 40-yd drop box).

Window Blinds, Curtains & Draperies

Metal window blinds (36" or less), and similar metal items, are accepted in our curbside recycling program. Please remove and discard the plastic handle. String drawcords are OK. Please place next to recycling bins for pick-up.

Plastic and wood window blinds - dispose of in your garbage.

Metal window blinds longer than 36", or other large scrap metal items made from steel, copper, aluminum and/or brass, are accepted for recycling at any of our three area [Drop Box Facility & Recycling Centers](#). Small recycling fee charged.

Curtains and Draperies - clean cloth curtains and draperies are accepted at [Ragfinery](#), a Bellingham textile reuse business.

We also offer our convenient [You Call-We Haul](#) junk recycling or disposal service to residential and commercial customers.

Lighting

SSC no longer accepts lighting products for recycling at our Bellingham Drop Box Facility & Recycling Center.

Non-working LED and incandescent bulbs can be placed in the garbage. If broken, handle carefully like any broken glass material.

Reminder: It is illegal to dispose of mercury-containing lights with regular garbage (RCW 70.275.080). For more info:

[LightRecycle Washington](#)

[Disposal of Toxics Facility](#)

FoodPlus!

Recycle these items in your FoodPlus! Toter (residential and commercial customers):

ALL FOODS/FOOD SCRAPS including:

- Fruit/Vegetable Scraps, Peels, Trimmings
- Spoiled/Outdated Foods
- Dairy Scraps (such as yogurt, cheese, sour cream, ice cream, milk)
- Paper Coffee Filters, Coffee Grounds, Tea Bags

- Eggshells
- Leftovers/Table Scraps
- Dough Scraps (wrap or bag in PAPER)
- All Meat, Fish, Shellfish Scraps (including bones and shells)

ALL COMPOSTABLE FOOD-SOILED PAPERS, including:

- Pizza Boxes
- Paper Cartons
- Ice Cream Cartons
- Paper Deli/Take-Out Cartons
- Napkins/Paper Towels/Tablecloths
- Paper Plates, Bowls, Cups
- Parchment/Waxed Paper, Paper Bags
- Bakery Boxes, Paper Liners, Waxed Cardboard Boxes
- Compostable Serveware (Ex. Corn, Potato, Bamboo-Based items) including Plates, Bowls, Cups, Lids, Utensils, Straws, To-Go Containers. Visit <http://cedar-grove.com/compostable/accepted-items> for more info.

All Yard Debris including:

- Grass Clippings
- Garden Trimmings/Weeds
- Leaves
- Brush/Branches (max. 7" diameter)
- Floral Trimmings, Houseplants
- Expired Floral Arrangements, Waxed Floral Paper. Plant Material ONLY.
- Seasonal Greens (Pumpkins, Cornstalks, Hay, Gourds, Garlands, Wreaths, Swags, Etc.)

OTHER COMPOSTABLE ITEMS including:

- Tissue Paper
- Small Wood Scraps
- Corks (real, not plastic)

Check out this [FoodPlus! video](#) from our friends at WSU/Whatcom County Cooperative Extension.

Hazardous Waste

SSC **does not accept** any kind of hazardous, toxic, radioactive or dangerous waste(s), ammunition, explosives, dead animals, CFL/fluorescent lights, old gasoline, solvents, antifreeze, asbestos, pesticides, any type of liquid paint, chemicals or hot ashes.

Note: hot ashes should *never* be placed in your Toter® or can. Hot ashes are a fire hazard and should never be placed in a Toter® or can. Set in a metal can outside and away from buildings, structures or anything that can ignite. Let cool completely. Place COLD ashes in a bag and dispose of as garbage.

To dispose of these types of wastes, please contact [Disposal of Toxics](#) at 360-380-4640.

To dispose of ammunition or explosives (old boat flares, fireworks, etc.), contact the Washington State Patrol (Bellingham office) at 360-676-2007 or the Bellingham Police Department at 360-778-8800 for options.

Liquids

Small quantities of household liquids such as cooking oils and beauty products are acceptable.

SSC is unable to collect household hazardous liquids such as pesticides, paints, thinners, solvents, fuels or cooking oils from homes or businesses. Please contact the [Disposal of Toxics](#) at 360-380-4640 for safe disposal options.

Commercial establishments can contact the following rendering services for disposal of cooking oils:

[Darling International](#)

[Baker Commodities Inc](#)

Burn Barrels

Collection of burn barrels is classified as a special pick-up. We can only accept empty barrels (no ashes).

For burn barrels with material in them please contact the [Northwest Clean Air Agency](#) for instructions or call 800-622-4627.

Plastic Containers

Bottles, Jugs, Caps & Rings

Cups, Jars, Tubs, Pails, Buckets & Lids

(max. bucket size for curbside pick-up is 3 gal. with metal handles removed)

All colors and numbers. Labels OK.

Remove lids and caps. Rinse CLEAN. FLATTEN bottles. Replace caps and recycle containers loose or nested together.

Recycle plastic containers used for these types of products:

Beverages, dairy products, deli foods, sauces/condiments, cooking oils, soaps, detergents, cleaners (kitchen, laundry & garage), snack foods, frozen foods, storage/freezer containers, hair/body care, health/medicine, single-serve cold beverage cups/lids, hot beverage lids, caps and rings.

At this time, we cannot accept the following plastics for recycling in the residential or commercial curbside recycling programs, or at our Drop Box Facility and Recycling Center:

NO plastic pumps, Styrofoam, tableware/utensils, toys, foam rubber, insulation or any plastic containers that held potentially hazardous materials.

Please [contact us](#) to recycle larger quantities or film plastics.

Fireworks

All used fireworks should be soaked in a bucket of water and then disposed of in your garbage.

To dispose of duds, unused fireworks or other ammunition or explosives (old boat flares, etc.), please contact one of these agencies for options:

- Washington State Patrol (Bellingham office) 360-676-2007
- Bellingham Police Department 360-778-8800

FoodPlus! Holiday Wrap / Packaging

Many types of holiday packaging and other seasonal items are recyclable or accepted in our [FoodPlus! program](#), including:

Curbside Recycling—YES, please recycle in your Scrap Paper bin:

- Wrapping paper—No foiled paper please
- Paper gift bags—Please remove handles
- Product packaging including paper stuffing, inserts, wraps, boxes, etc.
- Gift wrap cardboard tubes
- All cards, tags and envelopes regardless of how much extra material, like glitter, is on them.

Curbside Recycling—YES, please recycle in your Bottles, Cans & Plastic Containers bin:

- Glass, plastic bottles and jars—lids and caps too
- Tin cans and lids
- Plastic containers and lids (no hinged containers, blister-type packaging or film (wrap) plastics)

For blister-type plastic recycling options, [click here](#)

Curbside Recycling—YES, please recycle next to your recycling bins as scrap metal:

Holiday lights, extension cords and wire. Please bundle and tie with string, rubber band or twist tie.

FoodPlus!—YES, please compost:

- Seasonal Greens/Wreaths/Garlands/Swags/Trees (up to 8' tall)—No wire or ribbon please
- Tissue Paper/Cotton Twine/Cotton or Fabric Gift Bag Handles—No foiled paper
- Paper Tablecloths/Napkins/Paper Plates, Bowls and Cups
- Compostable Serviceware, inc. Utensils, Plates, Bowls and Cups, etc. often made from corn, potato, bamboo, etc. Must be labeled "compostable". Visit <https://cedar-grove.com/compostable/accepted-items> for more info.

Sign up for FoodPlus! [here](#). For additional questions or more info, please [contact us](#).

Plastics - Film & Rigid

Film Plastics

SSC accepts film plastics including bags, wrap, and sheeting at our [Bellingham Drop Box Facility & Recycling Center](#) ONLY. Fee charged.

IMPORTANT! These plastic items are *not* accepted through our *curbside* recycling programs.

Commercial customers: [Routed collection options](#) are available for businesses generating large quantities of film plastics.

Film plastics accepted for recycling include CLEAN:

- Bags/Packaging (grocery, newspaper, produce, bakery, deli, dry cleaner, garden, shipping, mail order, storage/freezer, frozen food, etc.)
- Wrap (magazine/mail, bubblewrap, spun fiber packing, poly sheeting/Visqueen, painter's drop sheets, pallet wrap, etc.)

- Commercial/Construction – (insulation bags, lumber wrap w/o paper backing, “Super Sacks”, silage bags, etc.).

All types and colors accepted. Material must be clean. NO Styrofoam™ or thin foam sheets.

Recommendation: compact (in can or plastic sack) to save money.

Rigid Plastics

As of February 4, 2021, only rigid plastics collected in our [curbside recycling programs](#) will be accepted for recycling at our [Drop Box Facility & Recycling Centers](#). Fee charged. Please [contact us](#) for current rates or questions.

Pots, Pans, Skillets & Cookie Sheets

Old, unusable metal pots, pans, skillets, and cookie sheets can be recycled as scrap metal along with other steel, copper, aluminum and brass products, and empty non-hazardous aerosol cans. Maximum 35 lbs. per pick up. Maximum length 24 inches. Store in a box and place next to curbside containers for pick-up.

Small plastic handles are OK if not easily removed.

Smoke Alarms & Carbon Monoxide Detectors

There are two types of smoke alarms available on the market - ionization and photoelectric. Both contain plastic, electronic circuit boards and in some cases, batteries.

Some ionization smoke alarms contain radioactive materials and cannot be recycled.

Ionization Smoke Alarm

1. Remove the battery. If alkaline, dispose of it in the garbage. If lithium, drop off for recycling at your local electronics store. Some local grocers also have battery recycling containers.
2. Carefully remove the plastic cover and recycle it with bottles, cans and plastic containers in your curbside recycling bin.
3. Package the remaining alarm and mail it back to the manufacturer who will properly dispose of it. The address of the manufacturer is usually listed in the product warranty or user's manual.

Photoelectric Smoke Alarm

1. Remove the battery. If alkaline, dispose of it in the garbage. If lithium, drop off for recycling at your local electronics store. Some local grocers also have battery recycling containers.
2. Carefully remove the plastic cover and recycle it with bottles, cans and plastic containers in your curbside recycling bin.
3. Dispose of the rest of the unit in your garbage.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Remove and dispose of battery in the trash. Recycle carbon monoxide detector shells with bottles, cans and plastic containers.

FoodPlus! Seasonal/Celebration/Holiday Items

Use your FoodPlus! Toter year-round to recycle many compostable items used for seasonal/holiday decorating, parties and other celebrations, including:

Pumpkins/Gourds/Squash

Cornstalks/Hay/Straw

Old or unwanted Halloween candy

Seasonal Greens and Holiday Trees (up to 8' long)

Wreaths, Garlands, Swags (no wire or ribbon please)

Tissue Paper

Cotton Twine, Cotton/Fabric Gift Bag Handles

Paper Tablecloths and Napkins

Paper Plates, Bowls, Cups

Compostable, Plant-based Dishware and Utensils inc. Plates, Bowls and Cups. Must be labeled "compostable". No "biodegradable" items accepted.

Garbage and Recyclable Collection

Garbage

Garbage that SSC collects from residential and commercial customers is delivered to [Republic Services](#) and [Recycling & Disposal Services Inc.](#) (RDS), both in Ferndale.

Garbage is loaded into rail cars and shipped by train to landfills in Washington and Oregon. [Read more](#) about solid waste management in Whatcom County.

Recyclables

All curbside recyclables collected by SSC are delivered to [Lautenbach Recycling](#) in Ferndale.

Shredded Paper

Please bag all shredded paper in a paper bag and tape shut with masking tape to prevent windblown litter. Lay sideways in recycling bin with other scrap paper.

SSC also offers confidential data shredding – mobile on-site or drop-off at our [Bellingham Drop Box Facility & Recycling Center](#).

Infant Car Seats

Recycle expired infant car seats by dismantling and separating out the metal and plastic components.

Metal: place in a box next to your curbside recycle bins along with other scrap metal. More [here](#). Please dispose of all other parts in your garbage.

Gasoline

Old or dirty gasoline, as well as most used solvents, paint thinners, and similar products can be properly disposed of through [Disposal of Toxics](#) at 360-380-4640.

Reminder: Flammable and hazardous items should **never** be placed in garbage Toters or recycling bins, dumped on the ground or in storm drains.

Garments, Textiles & Fabric Art Supplies

Unwanted garments, textiles and fabric art supplies can be recycled at [Ragfinery](#) in Bellingham.

Clean and dry clothing– mens, womens, childrens. ALL varieties except undergarments.

Clean and dry home linens– blankets, draperies, sheets, etc.

Textile Arts Supplies:

- unfinished fabrics
- sewing machines
- fabric scissors
- sewing notions of all kinds!
- textile measuring tape
- dress forms
- elastic
- trim
- ribbons
- fabric paint
- fabric glue

Old Corrugated Cardboard (OCC) & Wax-Coated Boxes

Old Corrugated Cardboard (OCC)

Cardboard boxes, sheets, and ClimaCell insulated box liners. Remove packing materials. Flatten and bundle. One bundle per pickup (residential customers). Max. bundle size 24"x48"x6". No Styrofoam, plastic packing or wax-coated boxes.

Special picks-ups of large quantities available to residential customers for a fee. Please [contact us](#) to schedule.

Note: Home-based businesses with regular, large quantities of cardboard require [commercial recycling service](#).

Wax-coated Cardboard

Small quantities accepted flattened, loose for composting. [Commercial only](#).

Fiberglass Insulation

If clean and dry, consider reusing it if possible or carefully bagging it and giving away. At present, there is no recycling available locally for fiberglass insulation.

If reuse is not an option, bag and dispose of with your trash.

Reminder: wear proper protective gear to minimize your risk from harmful fiberglass fibers in the air!

Contact [Recovery 1](#) in Tacoma for options.

Paint and Paint Products

DROP OFF

[Paint Care](#), Washington's paint stewardship program, offers paint and paint product recycling options.

Local drop-off sites are available to households, businesses, government agencies, and others with leftover paint or unwanted paint.

CURBSIDE

Empty Metal or Plastic Paint Cans and Lids (up to 1 gal.)

Remove lid. Recycle any paper label with scrap paper. Set can and lid out to dry. Residential and multi-family customers may recycle with bottles, cans, and plastic containers.

Polycoated / Paper Cartons (Refrigerator/Freezer)

Polycoated paper cartons used for refrigerator and freezer products can be composted in our [FoodPlus! program](#). This includes dairy, juice, and frozen food containers.

Please discard any plastic parts (spouts, liners) before placing the cartons in your FoodPlus! Toter™.

Vinyl Siding (PVC)

There are no local options for recycling vinyl siding (PVC). Please reuse or dispose of as garbage. [Contact us](#) to schedule a special pick-up.

Oily Rags and old Shop Towels

Recycling or disposal options for oily rags and dirty shop towels depends on where they are generated:

Commercial Customers

Business generated hazardous waste is not accepted. Businesses should contact [Disposal of Toxics](#).

Residential and Multi-Family Customers

Shop towels or rags contaminated with solvents, oil, etc. are potentially combustible and can pose a safety hazard for our drivers and fleet if not properly handled. These items can be safely disposed of in the trash if prepared properly:

Spread the rags flat in a single layer outside so any heat dissipates while they cure (become hard and brittle). Note: The time it takes to cure can vary depending on humidity, temperature and product.

Once cured, place in trash. Do not bag.

For more info about household hazardous waste disposal and recycling, visit [Disposal of Toxics](#).

Canisters & Tanks (Helium, Propane)

Propane Canisters

Empty propane canisters used for camp stoves, lanterns, propane torches, small BBQ's and trailers should be taken to [Disposal of Toxics](#).

Isobutane Canisters

Empty isobutane canisters used for backpacking stoves can be safely punctured using a special tool sold at outdoor shops and then placed as scrap metal beside your curbside recycle bins (along with empty aerosol cans which did not contain toxic products).

Propane and Helium Tanks

Propane tanks (BBQ-size) and party-size helium tanks are accepted for recycling as scrap metal at our [Drop-Off Facility and Recycling Centers](#) only.

Tanks must be empty and valve removed. Propane or helium tanks are not accepted as garbage or through our curbside programs.

Cooking Oil

Residential customers can recycle used cooking oil at [Disposal of Toxics](#) or call 360-380-4640.

If drop off at Disposal of Toxics is not an option, and it is a small quantity, residential curbside customers may place used cooking oil in a sturdy plastic bottle, seal tightly and place in a plastic bag in garbage. Cooking oil must be cooled before placing in garbage.

Commercial customers can contact [Disposal of Toxics](#) for options.

Coffee Pods (aka Keurig K-Cups)

Single-use coffee pods cannot be recycled at this time because they are made of three materials: a plastic cup, which is lined with a plastic or heat-sealed paper filter, and a polyethylene-coated aluminum foil top.

Aerosol Cans (Non-Hazardous) & Fire Extinguishers

Aerosol Cans (Non-Hazardous)

Non-hazardous, aerosol cans ONLY are accepted for recycling. Aerosol cans must be EMPTY. No pressure or contents must be left in can. Leave cap on (if you have it). Place in cardboard box with any other scrap metal. Set next to recycling bins or recycling Toters® for collection.

Hazardous product aerosol cans, cans that are not empty, or cans generated by businesses must be taken to [Disposal of Toxics](#).

Fire Extinguishers

Empty tanks are accepted for recycling as scrap metal in our curbside recycling program. No pressure or contents can be left in tank. Remove plastic or rubber parts if possible.

Place in cardboard box with other scrap metal and set next to recycling bins or recycling Toters® for collection.

We also accept empty tanks at our [Bellingham Drop Box Facility & Recycling Center](#).

[Security Solutions](#) in Bellingham accepts empty tanks for refurbishing depending on condition (small charge may apply).

For antique extinguishers (pre 1960) please contact [Disposal of Toxics](#).

Pet Waste

All pet waste should be bagged and disposed of in the trash.

Pet wastes are not accepted in the [FoodPlus!](#) program.

For more information:

City of Bellingham [Scoop the Poop](#).

Whatcom County [Scoop the Poop](#).

Mattresses

Mattresses beyond reuse or repair can be set out next to your garbage Toter® for pickup. [Contact us](#) for rates.

Other options include visiting one of our [Drop Box Facility & Recycling Centers](#) or our [You Call-We Haul](#) junk hauling service.

Appliances (White Goods)

We offer several options for recycling appliances (also known as white goods).

To recycle appliances with compressors, such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioning units, de-humidifiers, etc., please [contact us](#) to schedule pickup through our [You Call – We Haul](#) junk hauling service. These appliances contain compressor oil and refrigerant in them that must be recovered by law by certified technicians, which increases the cost to recycle.

Non-compressor appliances, such as washers, dryers, dishwashers, etc. are accepted for a fee at our [Bellingham Drop Box Facility and Recycling Center](#).

Reminder: we do not accept appliances as part of our regular curbside garbage or recycling collection service.

Paperback Books / Guides / Manuals

Paperback books, guides, manuals, and similar softback or loose-leaf (notebook, 3-ring binder paper, etc.) material can be recycled with scrap paper and newspaper. Staples, paper clips, file folder clips OK.

For larger quantities, place in a small plastic tub or cardboard box no larger than a standard curbside bin and recycle through the curbside recycling program (no charge) or drop-off at our [Drop Box Facility & Recycling Centers](#).

Tires

Tires can be set out next to your garbage Toter® for disposal. Extra fees apply and will appear on your next bill. Please [contact us](#) for an estimate or to schedule a pickup of multiple tires.

Metal rims can be placed next to curbside recycling bins as scrap metal (max wt. 35 lbs, max length 24”).

Tires and metal rims are also accept tires for disposal at our [Drop Box Facility & Recycling Centers](#) .

Check with your local tire retailer for additional recycling or disposal options.

X-Rays & MRI's

X Rays and MRI's can be safely disposed of in the regular trash. Here are some other options to consider:

Contact your physician/lab/hospital to see if they will take them back for disposal or recycling.

Donate to a school, etc. for use as a teaching tool or as part of an arts/craft project?

License Plates

Remove or invalidate the month and year tabs then bend plates so they can't be used on another vehicle.

Recycle old license plates, *except those listed below*, with bottles, cans, and plastic containers in your curbside recycling bin or at our [Drop Box Facility & Recycling Centers](#).

We cannot accept the following types of plates. Please return to a vehicle licensing office.

Commercial vehicle (gross weight over 12,000 lbs.)
Personalized
Baseball stadium
Horseless carriage
Amateur radio operator (HAM)
Medal of Honor
Pearl Harbor survivor
Gold Star parent

(Powdered) Cement

Dispose of cement that has started to go hard and formed solid lumps in your garbage.

Cement, and the cement in concrete or mortar mix, will begin to cure as soon as it absorbs moisture, including from the air. After it hardens to a certain point, it will not perform as it was designed.

Reminder: a 60-gallon garbage Toter™ allows only 100 pounds net load per pick-up, and a sack of cement or mortar mix can weigh 90 pounds by itself. Don't overload containers.

Aseptic Containers (non-refrigerated, shelf-stable)

Aseptic cartons and boxes, also known as "Tetra-Pak" containers, are non-refrigerated, shelf-stable food and beverage containers that include juice boxes, juice pouches, milk/dairy beverage cartons, soup/broth cartons, and more.

Tetra-Pak is a brand name of the largest maker of aseptic packaging. Aseptic packaging and other types of papers with foil component (ex. foil gift wrap) are neither recyclable nor compostable in our area at this time.

Aseptic packaging may be recyclable in other areas of our state that are closer to markets. It is cost prohibitive at this time to ship this material from Whatcom County. Please dispose of with your garbage.

Antifreeze

Recycle antifreeze at these locations (5-gallon limit):

[SSC Cedarville Drop Box Facility](#)

[SSC Birch Bay Drop Box Facility](#)

[Disposal of Toxics](#)

Some speedy lube/oil businesses may also take household quantities. Inquire direct.

Reminder: antifreeze is not accepted in our curbside recycling program.

Carpet & Carpet Padding

Carpet, carpet padding, and tacking are not accepted for recycling at this time in our area.

Please dispose of these items in your garbage Toter® if they fit and the lid can be closed. For small amounts that are too bulky to fit in Toter®, [contact us](#) to schedule a curbside pick-up on your regular collection day. Extra fees apply.

For larger volumes, or items too large for curbside pick-up, use our [You Call We Haul](#) junk hauling service or visit one of our [Drop Box Facility & Recycling Centers](#).

Golf Clubs

Golf clubs and golf bags not worthy of selling or donating can be taken apart for recycling and disposal.

Metal club shafts can be recycled as scrap metal. Set next to your curbside recycling bin. All other parts should be disposed of in your garbage.

Medicines & Sharps

Information on proper disposal or recycling is [here](#).

Marijuana Waste

Marijuana waste is ONLY accepted as garbage and may need testing and special handling.

For more info contact the Whatcom County Health Department at 360-778-6033 or [Disposal of Toxics](#) before disposing.

Marijuana waste is not accepted in our [FoodPlus!](#) program.

Glass & Mirrors

GLASS

We accept all colors of food and beverage glass bottles and jars (plus lids, labels and caps) for recycling.

- Please remove lids and caps and place loose in recycling container. Avoid breaking glass.
- Rinse bottles and jars clean.
- Reminder: Bottles must be removed from 6-pak and half case boxes, etc. before recycling.

While food and beverage glass is recyclable, for safety reasons, we prefer that broken or shattered glass be bagged or placed inside an empty carton (milk/juice) or box and discarded as garbage. Cracked or chipped glass bottles and jars are accepted for recycling.

MIRRORS / OTHER NON-RECYCLABLES

Picture frame glass, also referred to as plate glass, and similar breakable items like ceramic dishware, drinking glasses, mirrors, PYREX, window glass and lightbulbs are not accepted for recycling. Please wrap in newspaper then place in a plastic bag and dispose of in your garbage.

Plate glass, and other non food and beverage container glass, melts at a different temperature than container glass and can't be separated once mixed in the recycling stream.

Cables, Cords, Holiday Lights and Wire

Cables (computer), extension cords, holiday lights, and wire are recyclable as scrap metal. Please bundle and tie with string, rubber band or twist tie and place next to recycling bins for pick-up.

Batteries - All Types

Vehicle Batteries (Lead Acid) - Car, truck, motorcycle and boat batteries. Store in a box or bag. No cracked, leaking, household or rechargeable batteries accepted. Leave battery caps on. Note: Battery should say "Pb" on it, which designates it as Lead Acid.

Residential and Multi-Family Curbside Customers: please set next to recycling bins or recycling Toters.

Sealed Lead Acid (SLA) Batteries – Used in security, emergency, backup, mobile medical devices, etc. Store in a box or bag. No cracked, leaking, household or rechargeable batteries accepted. Note: Battery should say "Pb" on it, which designates it as Lead Acid.

Residential and Multi-Family Curbside Customers: please set next to recycling bins or recycling Toters.

Rechargeable Batteries - Ni-Cad, NiMh, Lithium and those used for cell phones, cameras, hearing aids, rechargeable tools, etc. Please contact [Disposal of Toxics](#) for recycling or disposal options.

Household Batteries - Alkaline and carbon-zinc batteries no longer contain hazardous materials and can be recycled. Inquire with your local grocer, electronic, or hardware store or dispose of in your garbage.

E-Waste (Electronics)

SSC no longer accepts electronic waste (e-waste), such as laptops, flat screen TV's monitors, etc. for recycling. Please visit [E-Cycle Washington](#) for local recycling alternatives.

Used Motor Oil & Oil Filters

Used Motor Oil

Used motor oil ONLY is accepted for recycling. Please do not mix with anything else.

Store in a one gallon (or smaller), sealed, non-breakable container. Empty motor oil or clean plastic milk or water jugs work great. Do not use bleach, detergent, or antifreeze containers. Screw on threaded lids tightly. Seal "pop top" style lids with duct tape. Mark container "Oil." Set next to recycling bins (residential) or recycling Toters® (multi-family) for collection. Commercial customers should contact us at ssc@ssc-inc.com for options.

Oil & Water Don't Mix – Separating Oil from Water

1. Let the oil/water mix stand. The oil will float to the top.
2. Pour off oil into an approved container (see above). Seal and label as instructed above.
3. Soak up any contaminated water and dispose of in the garbage.

Used motor oil is also accepted for recycling at our [Cedarville Drop Box Facility & Recycling Center](#) and [Birch Bay Drop Box Facility & Recycling Center](#).

Empty motor oil jugs can go in the garbage or be saved and used to store used motor oil (synthetic or petroleum) for recycling.

For questions or more information please [contact us](#).

Used motor oil accepted in SSC's recycling programs is collected by Thermo Fluids of Sumner, WA. More info about Thermo Fluids at <http://www.thermofluids.com/>

Oil Filters

Drained oil filters are accepted for recycling at our [Birch Bay Drop Box Facility & Recycling Center](#) and our [Cedarville Drop Box Facility & Recycling Center](#) ONLY.

To prepare used oil filters for recycling:

Punch hole(s) in sealed end (hammer and nail work fine). Drain upside down into a collection pan for 24 hours.

Used motor oil is accepted for recycling through our residential curbside program and at both locations above. For info on how to prepare used motor oil for recycling click [here](#).

For questions or more info please [contact us](#) or [Disposal of Toxics](#).