

# What and How Do I Recycle?

Amelia County Department of Environmental Management

January 31, 2020

Amelia County operates a single stream recycling program. Single stream recycling simply means that you may collect all of your recyclable materials together - no sorting required! It's more convenient for citizens as well as recyclable materials collectors and haulers. Everything is ultimately separated once it reaches the recycled materials processing center in Chester.

At each of the five (5) convenience centers, and at the public access area of the Maplewood landfill, there is a recycling bin that can accept newspaper, mixed paper, cardboard, #1 & #2 "narrow neck" plastic bottles, green, brown & clear glass containers, and aluminum and steel cans. You may collect all of these items together and place them in any of the compartments.

**"Newspaper"** means your daily, weekly, and Sunday newspapers and any inserts that may come in these papers. Paper bags that you use to collect, store and transport your newspapers are also OK to put in the paper compartments, but plastic bags should not be used for recycling paper. In fact, plastic bags should not be put in any of the recycling bin compartments but can be recycled in the small blue plastic bag recycling bins at the Maplewood landfill, Pleasant Grove, Epps Lane, Mannboro and Ponton's Store convenience centers or at Food Lion.

**"Mixed Paper"** means junk mail, cereal boxes, and other cardboard boxes. Do not recycle paper contaminated with food waste such as greasy pizza boxes. Other unacceptable paper products include cereal box liners, waxed paper, tissues, paper napkins, paper plates and cups, paper towels, photographs and books.

**Please break down large cardboard boxes before recycling in order to conserve space for additional materials.**

**"Plastic Bottles"** means narrow-neck plastic bottles marked with a #1 or a #2 on the bottom such as soda, shampoo and detergent bottles and milk jugs. Please *do not* put plastic toys, bags, buckets, Styrofoam egg cartons, storage bins, motor oil containers, etc., into this compartment. Only plastic bottles are acceptable. Please remove tops, rinse containers and stomp them flat before recycling to conserve space.

**"Glass Bottles & Jars"** means brown, green, and clear glass food & beverage containers. Please *do not* put light bulbs, mirrors, automobile glass, ceramic mugs or plates, drinking glasses, baking dishes, pottery, or plexi-glass in these compartments. Again, these compartments are mainly intended for beverage and food containers. Please rinse your containers prior to recycling and remove lids.

**"Aluminum Cans" and "Metal Cans"** also means beverage and food containers. Larger metal items such as roofing and appliances can be recycled at the Maplewood landfill.

Don't forget that the recycling bins have compartments on both sides. If you find one side full, just walk around to the other side and you should find plenty of space for your recyclable materials. Or if the first door you come to reveals a full compartment, walk to the other end of the bin and check that compartment.

Bins for the recycling of plastic bags have been placed at the Maplewood landfill, the Pleasant Grove, Epps Lane, Ponton's Store and Mannboro convenience centers or plastic bags may be taken to Food Lion for recycling in special recycling bins located near their entrance doors.

Textiles are collected in the large white metal recycling bins located at each convenience center labeled **“CLOTHES & SHOES”** where you can recycle clothing, shoes, sheets, towels, curtains, etc.

Other materials such as used motor oil, automotive batteries, computers & electronics, and white goods/appliances can be recycled at the Maplewood landfill and tires can be recycled for a fee. Call 561-3004 or check at the main office at the landfill for details on where you should take these items.

Computer ink jet and laser cartridges, cell phones and rechargeable batteries can be recycled at the Amelia County Administrator’s office.

Other recycling programs are available throughout Amelia County that local non-profit organizations have established and benefit from:

The Friends of the Library accepts used books to sell for funds to benefit the James L. Hamner Public Library and its outreach programs. Movies, CD’s and DVD’s are also accepted.

The Amelia County Fire Department Auxiliary Clothes Cottage accepts used furniture, household items and clothing to donate to victims of fire or to sell to benefit the volunteer Fire Department.

The Amelia Thrift Store and Hope Thrift Store also accept donations of used furniture, household items and clothing with the proceeds from sales going to support local charities.

The Lions Club collects eyeglasses and sunglasses for people in developing countries.

Several local automotive businesses also accept materials for recycling such as used motor oil and automotive batteries. Call for details.

And please remember to buy recycled! This “closes the loop” on recycling and makes the whole process a success. If we recycle our used materials but do not buy products made from recycled materials, we are short-circuiting the system and it will ultimately fail. Check paper products and packaging for recycled content, buy door mats for your home or business and seep hoses for your garden made from recycled tires, and purchase clothes and carpet made from recycled plastics.

If you have any recycling questions, please call 561-3004.