

Automated Single Stream Recycling Begins June 7th, 2010

Starting the week of June 7, 2010, the Town of West Hartford will begin collecting household recycling in 95-gallon automated barrels. Collection vehicles similar to the trucks that collect refuse will now be used to collect recyclables.

This change accompanies the expansion of acceptable recyclables collected at the curb. CRRA, the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority that manages our recycling, has announced the addition of number 3 through 7 plastics into the recycling stream. This addition, along with their recent conversion to single stream recycling, will make recycling the easiest it has ever been for residents. Single stream recycling means no more sorting of recyclables by type; they all go into one barrel and sorted later at CRRA's recycling center.

Beginning late April through the first week of June each residential dwelling will receive a new blue 95-gallon recycling barrel. Please do not use the barrel until your first scheduled collection.

Collection schedules will be delivered with each barrel. Recyclables will be collected every two weeks on the same day as your refuse collection day.

Here are some frequently asked question regarding your barrel and recycling.

How will I get a barrel?

Your barrel will be delivered to you and left in front of your house at curbside by Paine's Recycling & Rubbish Removal. The placement at delivery will be the preferred site for your recycling collection. You should remove the barrel from the curbside when you receive it and make a note of your barrel serial number.

Is this barrel mine to keep?

The barrel does not belong to you; instead it is the property of the Town of West Hartford, just like your refuse barrel. Should you move, even within town, the barrel remains at the residence. Each barrel's serial number is assigned your home address.

What is the policy for damaged barrels?

If the barrel is damaged as the result of normal wear and tear, (for example, broken lid or wheel), it will be replaced or repaired at no charge to the homeowner. If the barrel is damaged due to the result of abuse, there will be a \$75.00 charge to the homeowner to replace the barrel. All repairs or replacements will be handled by Paine's Recycling & Rubbish Removal.

What if my barrel is stolen or I move to a property in town that does not have a barrel?

There have been very few thefts of barrels. In most case when a barrel is reported stolen it has been inadvertently brought in from the curb by a neighbor. This is why we suggest that you record your barrel's serial number. However, if your barrel is stolen or you move to a property without a barrel, you will be responsible for replacement of the barrel.

How many recycling barrels would a residential two- or three-family dwelling receive?
Each dwelling unit would receive one 95-gallon barrel.

What if I have more recyclable materials than will fit in my recycle barrel?

You can maximize the space of your barrel by flattening corrugated cardboard, breaking down box board and nesting smaller items inside larger ones. There should be more than enough room in your barrel to accommodate all of your recyclables. If not, can ask a neighbor to use any available space he or she may have in his or her barrel. You may also consider holding the excess recyclables until your next collection. Residents needing an additional barrel may lease one annually from Paine's for a fee.

Can I put excess recycling at the curb in my old blue bin next to my new barrel?

No, only the recyclables contained in the 95-gallon barrel will be collected.

What do I do with the old recycling bin?

It is recommended that you keep your existing recycle bin to use as tote to transfer your recyclables from your house to your 95-gallon barrel or as a holding bin for excess recyclables that do not fit in your barrel. If you do not wish to keep your bin, you may drop it off at the Department of Public Works, 17 Brixton St., West Hartford, according to a schedule that will be announced. Keep in mind, once automated single stream recycling begins, you will not be able to place this bin with recyclables at the curb for pick-up. Beginning June 7th, all recyclables must be placed in the 95-gallon blue barrel for service.

What if my recycling barrel becomes dirty? Can I get a new one?

No. Residents are responsible for keeping their barrels clean.

Do I still need to rinse my recyclables?

Yes. All glass, tin, aluminum, plastic containers and aseptic packaging must be rinsed clean prior to placing in your automated recycle barrel. There are no changes from previous requirements.

What items are accepted for single stream curbside recycling?

Paper (newspaper, junk mail, magazines, catalogs, envelopes)

Office paper and school paper

Shredded paper – placed in a paper bag

Clean, flattened corrugated cardboard

Boxboard, (cereal, pasta, cracker, tissue boxes, paper towel and toilet paper rolls, ice cream containers rinsed clean)

Paper and plastic egg cartons

Paper bags

Glass jars and bottles (empty juice, liquor, beer, wine, soda, and pickle-type jars)

Aluminum cans and clean aluminum foil

Empty tin and steel aerosol cans (cooking spray, hair spray, household cleaning products, shaving cream)

All plastic containers labeled #1 through #7 up to 3 gallons (no motor oil bottles or flower pots)

Aseptic packaging (milk and juice cartons, juice boxes and pouches)

Items that were previously not acceptable remain on the list of unacceptable material. For periodic updates on acceptable materials, please visit the Town of West Hartford web site at www.westhartford.org/publicworks and Paine's web site at www.painesinc.com

What is the pick-up schedule?

Trash pick-up will continue every week. Recycling pick-up will be every two weeks on the same day as trash pick-up. A copy of the recycling schedule will be delivered with your new recycling barrel. It will also be posted on Paine's web site, www.painesinc.com by May 24, 2010.

How far from the curb and other obstacles should I place my barrel?

Both your refuse and recycling barrel should be placed on the grass belt or in your driveway apron for collection. Place your barrel two (2) feet from the curb with the handle and wheels turned away from the street and two (2) feet away from your trash barrel, mailbox, lawn ornaments, etc. (NOTE: The back of the barrel is where the wheels and handle are located. The front of the barrel is where the lid opens.)

Barrels placed in the street are a safety hazard and obstruction to traffic. Barrels placed in the roadway also impede other operations such as snow plowing, leaf collection and street sweeping.

This new barrel won't fit in my garage? Where should I store it?

The barrel can be placed along side your home, garage or shed, but it cannot be stored in front of your house.

Can I now put leaves and grass in this new recycle barrel?

No. These items are not part of this automated single stream recycling program and must still be recycled separately.

Can I use the new recycling barrel before the automated collection begins?

No, you cannot. The barrel is too big to be emptied by hand. Please refer to the calendar that lists your next automated collection pick-up.

How will I know which size barrel I will be getting?

Each residence will receive a 95-gallon barrel.