



ALX Recycles

Resources for Residents



Introduction

This Commercial & Multi-Family Recycling Program Guide supports multi-family apartment buildings, condominiums, and cooperatives to comply with The City of Alexandria's trash and recycling requirements. This guide contains information explaining the required recycling programs that facilities must maintain for their residents.

Also included are details on how waste can be reduced and reused in a multi-family setting and how buildings can elect to provide opportunities for residents to compost, recycle specialty materials, and properly dispose of hazardous waste.

Maintaining successful recycling programs will help your building avoid fines for non-compliance and support the City's 50% recycling goal.

ABOUT THE T&ES RESOURCE RECOVERY DIVISION

The City of Alexandria's Resource Recovery Division within the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES) works each day to maintain a livable, green, and thriving community.

You'll see team members running street sweepers or making mulch in the spring, and vacuuming leaves in the fall. Resource Recovery staff can be found collecting refuse, recycling, and yard waste from your home, and keeping public spaces clean and sanitary by emptying trash cans, collecting litter, and preventing illegal dumping.

Learn more about the Resource Recovery Division, and how you can help the City sustainably recover resources, by visiting alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIVISION CHIEF



Flavio Goncalves

*Division Chief,
Resource
Recovery*

Thank you for taking the time to review the latest edition of the Resource Recovery Division's Guide to Services! Our team is dedicated to providing the City of Alexandria with essential services throughout the year, including solid waste and recycling collection, street cleaning, and other sustainability programs. We are excited to share an overview of how you can benefit from these services.

We truly appreciate your continued support and commitment to following the best practices outlined in this guide. Your efforts not only contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable Alexandria, but also help prioritize the safety of our Resource Recovery crews and contractors, who work tirelessly to ensure timely and efficient service delivery.

Together, we are working to meet the City's environmental goals while building a stronger, cleaner community.

Let's continue to build on these successes. By working together, we can make a meaningful difference in creating an even more sustainable Alexandria for tomorrow.

Contact Us

SUBMIT A SERVICE REQUEST

Alex311 connects you to more than 175 City services in a variety of convenient ways. The Alex311 mobile app and website allow you to attach photos and specify the location of service requests.

Call 311 or 703.746.4311 from anywhere in Alexandria, or submit requests on Facebook, Twitter and in-person.

When a service request is submitted, you'll receive an email including a summary of the details, an expected response date based on the request type and a case number to track progress.



CONNECTING YOU TO CITY SERVICES

STAY CONNECTED



Visit the City's website at alexandriava.gov



Visit the Resource Recovery Division's website at alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery



Follow us on social media
[@AlexandriaVATES](https://www.instagram.com/AlexandriaVATES)

TRANSLATIONS

For a Spanish or Amharic version of this Guide, please visit: alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery.

Para leer esta guía en español, visite nuestro sitio web o use su teléfono para escanear el código QR.

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Recycling at Multi-Family Facilities

Recycling markets are constantly changing. As these markets change, so do sorting technologies, packaging designs, and the recyclability of materials.

The City regularly reviews and adjusts its recycling program to account for these changes and will work to keep you informed about what is and is not recyclable.

WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED IN ON-SITE CONTAINERS?

YES

✓ **PAPER & CARDBOARD**
EMPTY & FLATTEN



✓ **PLASTIC CONTAINERS**
EMPTY & RINSE
LABELS OK



✓ **METAL CONTAINERS**
EMPTY & RINSE
LABELS OK



NO



NO BATTERIES & ELECTRONICS
NO CLOTHING OR TEXTILES
NO TANGLERS (CORDS, WIRES)
NO STRAWS/UTENSILS

NO FOAM
NO GLASS
NO PLASTIC BAGS
NO BULKY ITEMS

NO SHREDDED PAPER
NO PET WASTE/DIAPERS
NO MEDICAL WASTE/SHARPS
NO FOOD RESIDUE

What about recyclable items that can't be collected in the bins?

Residents who receive City recycling collection service may schedule a pickup for bulky metal items. Metal household appliances and large metal items such as outdoor grills, exercise equipment, and chain-link fencing can be recycled per request (fees apply).

Contact **Alex311** to put in a service request.

RECYCLING GUIDELINES

1. Materials should be clean, empty and dry. Rinse if necessary. No food residue.
2. Put caps back on containers after emptying.
3. Items smaller than 3x3 inches will slip through the recycling equipment. No utensils or straws.
4. Empty and flatten cardboard. Remove air pillows, foam, or plastic wrap from the cardboard.
5. Plastic numbers (#1-7) do not determine recyclability. Rigid plastic containers with a neck made of #1 and #2 plastics are widely recyclable in the region.
6. Plastic cups, take out containers, and plastic food containers can be recycled **ONLY** if there is **no food residue** and the item is **thoroughly rinsed**.
7. Visit alexandriava.gov/Recycling for online recycling tools and the most up-to-date Yes/No list.

RECYCLE RIGHT ALEXANDRIA

NO PLASTIC BAGS

**DO NOT
BAG**
Recyclables



**RETURN PLASTIC
BAGS TO RETAILERS.**

Find the nearest retailer:
plasticfilmrecycling.org



NO PLASTIC BAGS IN RECYCLING!

Plastic bags, wraps, and films of any color, size or shape are not accepted in City recycling bins. These materials clog recycling equipment resulting in safety hazards to employees and operational problems.

Recycling facilities will often reject recyclables if they are contained in a plastic garbage bag or include wraps and films of any kind. The City also pays a penalty when bags and wraps are present.

Plastic bags are often the number one contaminant found in the City's recycling stream — please help the City reduce contamination by keeping your recyclables loose!

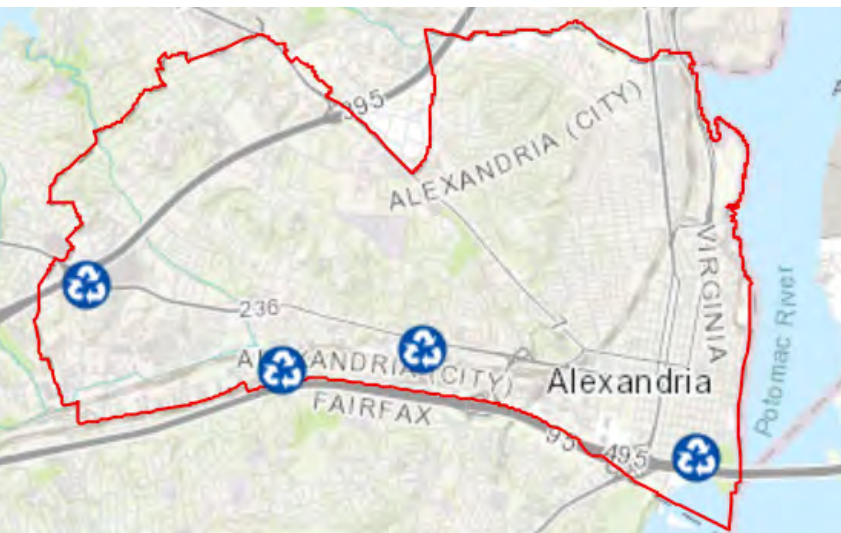
Plastic bag drop-off

Plastic bags, wraps, and films can be recycled if they are clean, empty, and dropped off at participating grocery stores and retailers.



Recycling Drop-Off Centers

Need to recycle right away? The City provides four public drop-off centers for all City residents and small businesses to use.



- 📍 4251 Eisenhower Avenue
- 3224 Colvin Street
- Jones Point Park (on the left at the end of South Royal Street heading south)
- South Whiting Street (at the end of South Whiting Street, intersecting at Tower Court)
- 🕒 **24 hours a day, seven days a week**
- 💰 **Free**
- 🖥️ alexandriava.gov/go/2768

Accepted Materials:

- Mixed containers (aluminum cans, steel cans, plastic bottles, and jugs)
- Mixed paper
- Emptied and flattened cardboard (remove Styrofoam and plastic wrap)

Prohibited Materials:

- NO glass (use purple bins co-located at Recycling Centers)
- NO Styrofoam or packing peanuts
- NO pots and pans
- NO plastic bags, wraps or films
- NO trash, furniture, bulk trash, construction waste, or yard waste (**NO illegal dumping**)



Help us fight illegal dumping

Illegal dumping limits the safe and orderly operation of recycling centers and poses environmental and public health risks.

The City of Alexandria is serious about combating this public nuisance to keep the community clean, healthy, and safe.

See any violations in progress? Report illegal dumping in the City by contacting **Alex311**.

Glass



NO GLASS IN BLUE RECYCLING BINS!

Glass is not accepted for direct pick-up from multifamily and commercial facilities in the City of Alexandria.

Residents have two options:

1. Drop off glass at purple glass-only recycling bins located at both City Recycling Centers and additional locations throughout the region.
2. Place glass in the trash bin.

Glass dropped off at purple bins will be recycled into new glass bottles, fiberglass insulation, and materials used in local public works projects.

YES



- ✓ Empty & Rinse
- ✓ Labels - OK
- ✓ All Colors of Glass - OK
- ✓ Metal Caps & Lids - OK

NO



Do NOT bag glass or wrap with plastic liners



No plastic bags or plastic wrap (return to retail)



No lamps or lightbulbs (use the Household Hazardous Waste Center)



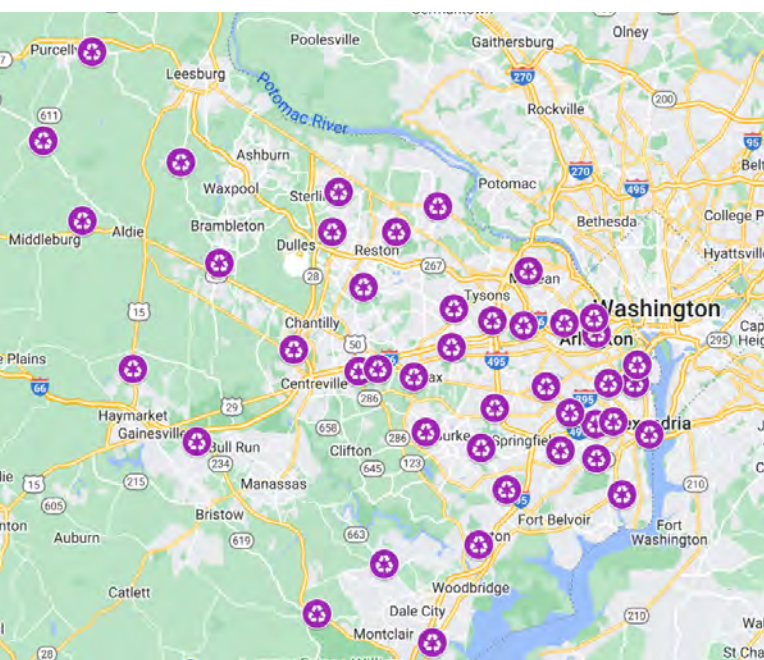
No ceramics, porcelain, or Pyrex™



No food or liquids (empty and rinse all containers)



No mirrors, windows, or glass sheets



- 📍 4251 Eisenhower Avenue
- 3224 Colvin Street
- Jones Point Park (on the left at the end of South Royal Street heading south)
- South Whiting Street (at the end of South Whiting Street, intersecting at Tower Court)
- Additional locations in Northern Virginia can be found at alexandriava.gov/go/2771

🕒 24 hours a day, seven days a week

💰 Free

🖥️ alexandriava.gov/go/2771



Need recycling containers for your special event?

The City of Alexandria Recycling Program has ClearStream recycling containers that can be loaned out for events in the City of Alexandria.

To review the full container loan agreement, and find full steps for planning an event with ClearStream containers, visit alexandriava.gov/go/2723.



Recycling at Special Events

Recycling is one of the easiest and cheapest ways to reduce the amount of trash at your event. Recycling can be set up in four easy steps:

1. Decide to have recycling at your event and establish a coordinator, especially for larger events.

2. Plan and set up a collection system.

- What kind of trash and recycling containers will you use?
- How many trash and recycling containers will you use? (The rule of thumb is one recycling container for every trash can).
- Where will the trash and recycling containers be located? Trash and recycling containers should be next to one another in highly visible and easily accessible locations.
- Who will be responsible for emptying the trash and recycling containers? Who will dispose of the trash and recycling at the end of the event? (Hauler, individual, etc. For small events, the City's recycling drop-off locations are available).

3. Promote and provide basic recycling education.

- Announce at the beginning and throughout the event that recycling is available.
- Provide signs explaining what is recyclable at your event.
- Ensure trash and recycling containers are appropriately labeled.

4. Monitor the trash and recycling containers for any contamination (trash in the recycling container or vice versa).

- Have volunteers remind event participants about what is and is not recyclable and where recyclables go, especially for large events.



Public Space Recycling

Recycling containers are located in popular pedestrian areas, such as lower King Street and Mount Vernon Avenue, and in City parks.



WHAT CAN I RECYCLE IN THE PUBLIC CONTAINER?

YES

✓ **PAPER & CARDBOARD**
EMPTY & FLATTEN
NO LARGE CARDBOARD



✓ **PLASTIC BOTTLES**
EMPTY & RINSE
LABELS OK



✓ **ALUMINUM CANS**
EMPTY & RINSE
LABELS OK



NO



PLASTIC BAGS, WRAPS, OR FILMS



POTS AND PANS



PET WASTE



GLASS
USE PURPLE BINS
AT RECYCLING
CENTERS



BULKY WASTE



FOOD CONTAINERS
E.G. TO-GO
CONTAINERS, CUPS,
OR TRAYS



NO POOP IN THE BLUE

Picking up and bagging pet waste is important to keep public spaces clean. Pet waste belongs in trash-only containers - make sure to keep blue recycling containers contamination free!

Putting pet waste in a recycling container ruins all recyclables inside and requires the City to sort all of the container's contents as trash.

Thank you for helping to keep streets, sidewalks, and parks clean and public recycling containers free of contaminants!

Food Waste Composting at Farmers' Markets



Food waste can be dropped-off at weekend farmers' markets for composting into a nutrient rich natural fertilizer for free. Staff is on-site to answer questions about composting and provide advice on how to reduce food waste.

SAVE THE FOOD

40% of all food in America is wasted.

Stopping food waste before it begins and donating food are the best practices before composting. Learn about food waste prevention, find a directory of where to donate food, and get additional tips by visiting alexandriava.gov/FoodWaste.

WHAT CAN I COMPOST AT FARMERS' MARKETS?

YES



Nuts, beans, & seeds
(including shells/hulls)



Fruit & vegetable scraps



Coffee grounds, filters, & tea bags
(no foil or foil-backed products)



Flowers



Bread, pasta, rice, grains, & cereals



Egg shells

NO



Oil



Plastic bags



Meat, seafood, & bones



Napkins, paper towels, & tissues



Pet waste



Dairy

LOCATIONS

Del Ray Farmers' Market

Corner of East Oxford & Mount Vernon Avenues
Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Open Year Round

Old Town Farmers' Market

301 King Street, Market Square
Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Open Year Round

Four Mile Run Farmers' Market

4109 Mount Vernon Avenue
Sundays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Open Year Round

West End Farmers' Market

4800 Brenman Park Drive
Sundays, 8.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Seasonal Market - Check Website for Dates

Old Town North Farmers Market

901 North Royal Street
Sundays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Open Year Round

Southern Towers Farmers Market

4901 Seminary Rd
Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Open Year Round



Trash Drop-Off Center

The City's Waste-To-Energy Facility includes a residential drop-off available to all Alexandria residents. Residents may drop-off waste once per week. The total weight of trash, debris or metal must not exceed 500 lbs. per visit. Residents may be asked to provide proof of residency by photo identification.

Unacceptable items include:

- Televisions
- Stumps
- Rocks
- Dirt or sand
- Pressurized cylinders or tanks
- Construction and building debris
- Hazardous waste
- Ammunition and explosives
- Regulated medical waste
- Radioactive or geological materials



ENVIRONMENTAL UPGRADES COMPLETE

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has issued final permits for the installation and operation of Low NOx (LN®) technology at the ReWorld Alexandria/Arlington Waste-To-Energy Facility.

In 2022, ReWorld Alexandria Waste-to-Energy facility completed planned enhancements to its state-of-the-art pollution control technology. The goal is to further reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, thereby helping to protect the environment.

With installation of its proprietary Low NOx (LN) technology now complete, nitrogen oxide emissions have been reduced by nearly 50%. The effort was part of a multi-year project at the ReWorld Alexandria-Arlington Facility.

? Questions? Call ReWorld at 703.370.7722

📍 5301 Eisenhower Ave.

🕒 Monday-Friday from 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 6 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.





💰 FREE

🌐 alexandriava.gov/RefuseCollection

Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics

Some household products require special disposal to keep our community safe and our air and water clean. These products contain harmful chemicals and heavy metals. The City operates a staffed drop-off location open two days a week for these items.



-  3224 Colvin Street (just off Duke Street)
-  Monday: 7:30 am to 3:30 pm (except holidays)
Tuesday-Friday: CLOSED
Saturday: 7:30 am to 3:30 pm (except holidays)
Sunday: CLOSED
-  FREE
-  alexandriava.gov/go/2703

WHAT CAN I DROP OFF AT THE HHW CENTER?



Household cleaning products



Herbicides & garden products



Electronic waste



Pesticides



Paints, stains, & solvents



Mercury-containing items
Light bulbs, thermostats, thermometers



Automotive chemicals



Propane tanks

Batteries

Do not place rechargeable batteries of any kind in the trash or recycling. The following battery types are accepted:

- All Rechargeable (e.g. Li-Ion, Ni-MH, Ni-Cd, Ni-Zn)
- Single Use Lithium (e.g. button/coin cell, AA, AAA, 9V, C, D, CR123A, CR2)
- Lead Acid (automotive) & Sealed Lead Acid

HOW TO DISPOSE OF...



...LATEX PAINT?

Unlike oil-based paint, latex paint is not a hazardous waste and can be disposed of with regular trash. The challenge is getting it from your home to the Waste-to-Energy plant without it leaking from the trash truck. Prior to disposal thicken latex paint by adding paint absorbent, kitty litter or shredded newspaper, then replace the lid and seal the can in a plastic bag. Never pour paint down a sink or storm drain!



...FOOD OILS, FATS, AND GREASE?

Small amounts of food oils, fats, and grease can be absorbed with paper towels and thrown away as regular trash. Modest amounts can be poured into a container with a screw-on lid and disposed as regular trash. For larger amounts, consider reaching out to a restaurant for permission to empty the oil into their used oil container. Never pour oils, fats, or greases down a sink or storm drain.



...PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE?

Help the City keep opioids out of the hands of those who might abuse them and to keep our precious drinking water clean from improper medicine disposals. Never flush medicine down a toilet or pour down a drain. You can drop-off any old or unwanted medicine year-round at:

- APD Headquarters (3600 Wheeler Avenue)
- Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray (2204 Mt. Vernon Avenue)
- Inova Alexandria Hospital (4320 Seminary Road)



...SHARPS AND NEEDLES?

Check with your doctor, clinic, or hospital to see about a needle or “sharps” disposal program at their office. Otherwise, place needles, syringes, lancets, and other contaminated sharps in any puncture-resistant, resealable, disposable household container (e.g. empty bleach bottle, laundry detergent bottle, or metal coffee can). Write on the container “SHARPS”. Once your container is full of used needles, fill the container with one part bleach solution and ten parts of water. Allow solution to soak for 20 minutes, to sterilize your used sharps. Then, pour the solution into the sink and seal the cap with tape before placing the disposal container into the garbage. Dispose of the container in your regular trash bin.



...EXPLOSIVES AND AMMUNITION?

Fireworks and explosives should be taken to a nearby fire station. Ammunition should be taken to a police department. Please call their non-emergency number to arrange a drop-off. (703.746.4444).





Batteries

Did you know that improper disposal of rechargeable batteries is one of the leading causes of truck fires in the waste industry?

Do not throw away rechargeable batteries or single use lithium batteries in the recycling OR trash bins.

Help keep our workers safe by dropping off your rechargeable batteries (e.g. Li-Ion, Ni-Cd, Ni-Mh, Ni-Zn), single use lithium batteries (e.g. button/coin cell, AA, AAA, 9V, C, D, CR123A, CR2), and batteries greater than 9 volts at an approved drop-off location for safe disposal.

Regular alkaline batteries can be disposed of in home trash bins, but residents are encouraged to double check the materials and type of a battery before doing so.

EXAMPLES OF BATTERIES TO DROP OFF

Rechargeable batteries are found in more places than you may think! Be sure to check these common items before placing them in any waste receptacles and properly dispose any batteries you may find:

- Cordless power tools (e.g. leaf blowers, drills, saws, grinders, lawn mowers)
- Cellphones, cordless phones, two-way radios
- Flashlights
- Laptops and tablets
- Biomedical equipment
- Childrens' toys
- Singing greeting cards
- Keyless entry remotes and remote controls
- E-cigarettes
- Electronic toothbrushes
- Smoke detectors

DROP OFF LOCATIONS



- 📍 3224 Colvin Street (just off Duke Street)
- 🕒 Monday: 7:30 am - 3:30 pm (except holidays)
Tuesday-Friday: CLOSED
Saturday: 7:30 am - 3:30 pm (except holidays)
Sunday: CLOSED

💰 FREE

For additional drop off locations provided voluntarily by retailers in the City, please visit alexandriava.gov/go/3619.

Reduce Plastic Bags



Lightweight plastic bags are commonly found in waterways as litter and remain as a pollutant. Wildlife commonly mistake plastic bags for food and also cause microscopic particles of broken down plastics to enter the food chain. The City of Alexandria, along with Arlington and Fairfax counties, adopted a 5-cent per plastic bag tax that went into effect January 1, 2022.

Avoid the 5-cent bag fee when shopping at grocery stores, convenience stores, and drug stores by bringing your reusable bag whenever you shop. For more information visit: alexandriava.gov/go/2091.

REUSABLE BAG ACCESS FOR SNAP & WIC COMMUNITIES

The City offers reusable bags to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) communities free of charge, while supplies last at:

Community and Human Services Front Office (DCHS)

2525 Mount Vernon Avenue
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Department of Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES)

2900-B Business Center Drive
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Foam-Free Alexandria

In 2021, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation banning the use of expanded polystyrene products by food vendors with 20 or more locations by **July 1, 2025**. All other food vendors are required to stop using these products by **July 1, 2026**.



What's expanded polystyrene?

Expanded polystyrene (EPS)— also known as foam or by the common brand name Styrofoam™— is a non-recyclable material commonly used in single use containers, cups, plates, and other servingware.

Who does this apply to?

Any food vendors who serve prepared food will need to take steps to phase out EPS products. That means you'll start finding alternative options to EPS products at:

- Restaurants
- Food trucks
- Catering companies
- Grocery store salad bars and prepared food sections
- Other food service locations

Why ban EPS products?

As waste, EPS products take over 500 years to break down in landfills. The lightweight material is easily blown out of trash cans and into the environment, where it pollutes waterways and is dangerous to wildlife. Styrene, which is a major component of EPS, can also be hazardous to humans in large amounts.

What are the alternatives?

Instead of using EPS products, look for:

- Reusable containers
- Bamboo and wheat straw
- Recyclable plastics
- Foil and metal

To see if alternatives should be placed in the trash, recycling, or compost, use the “What Goes Where” tool at alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery

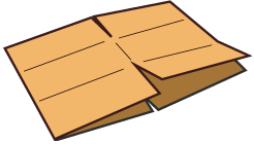
Reduce Holiday Waste

On average, household waste increases by more than 25% from Thanksgiving to New Years. Help reduce waste during the holiday season with these simple tips.



Keep tangles out of the blue bin

Please remember to keep items that tangle out of the recycling bin this holiday season. Reuse ribbons and bows or place them in the trash.



Empty, flatten, and recycle boxes and cardboard

This holiday season, remember to empty, flatten, and recycle your shipping and gift boxes. When you flatten boxes it makes more room in your recycling bin.



Recycle while cooking

Cooking this holiday season? Items such as milk cartons, aluminum cans, and baking sheets can be recycled. Just make sure they are rinsed and dry before placing them in the bin.



Consider giving experiences

Tickets to a show, dinner for two, or movie coupons are all great gift ideas that require no packaging. Alternative gifts can also include donations to local charities, adopting a street, or sponsoring an animal at a local shelter. Remember memories can last longer than things.



Gift in reusable or recyclable containers

Get creative this holiday season! Reuse boxes from online purchases as gift boxes or give existing materials a second life as gift wrap. These can include newspapers, magazines, and bags. Pro tip: The comics are terrific for wrapping children's gifts.



Use natural materials in your holiday décor

Decorate using real greenery. Natural wreaths and garland decor can be composted with organic waste. Just remember to remove any wires, lights, or ribbon before adding greenery to a compost collection bin.

WRAPPING PAPER GUIDE

Purchase wrapping paper made with recycled materials and reuse tissue and wrapping paper. Consider reusing wrapping paper before purchasing new rolls.

Remember, metallic and glitter wrapping paper and tissue paper are not recyclable. Limit using these materials, and reuse any you already have.

Learn more about how to sustainably prepare for the holidays at alexandriava.gov/go/4151.

	Reuse	Recycle	Trash
Glossy			
Metallic			
Wax-Coated			
Plain			
Tissue Paper			
Paper Tube			
Paper Box			

Tools to Help Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle



RECYCLE RIGHT SORTING GAME

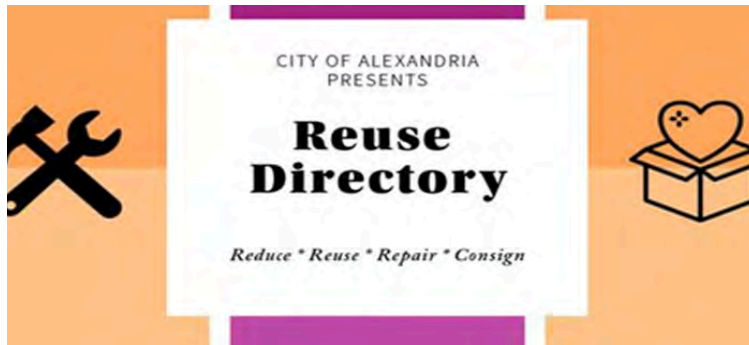
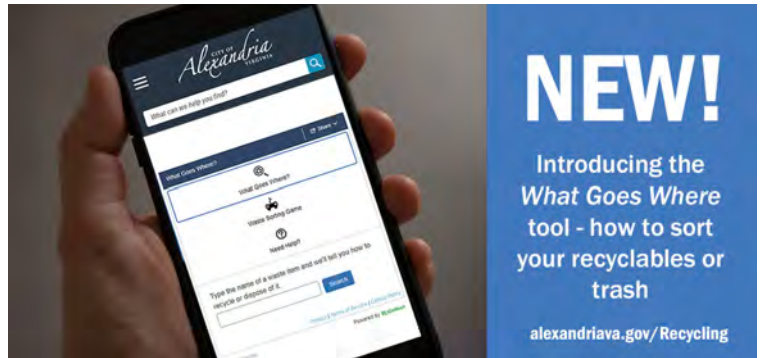
The City launched a sorting game that teaches you how to sort recyclables, yard waste and trash properly. Test your knowledge of sorting using City services and build your own digital Alexandria park!

 alexandriava.recycle.game

WHAT GOES WHERE?

Unsure about which items can be recycled or trashed? With the City's new "What Goes Where?" tool, the guesswork is out. Simply type in the name of the item you have a question about, and information will be provided on how best to dispose of it.

 alexandriava.gov/Recycling



REUSE DIRECTORY

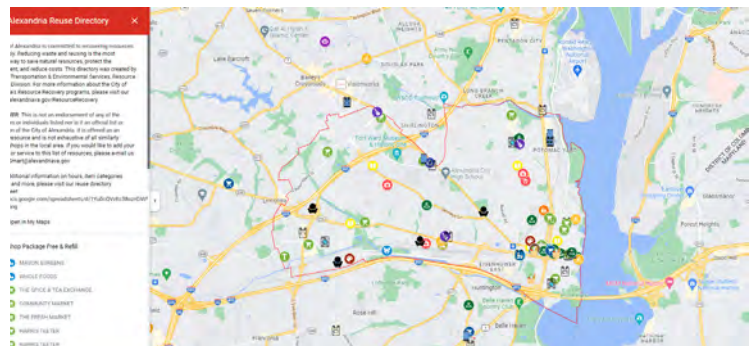
Want to reduce and reuse but not sure where to start? Visit the City's website for our new Reuse Directory! Find a list of local resources where you can repair, donate, and shop second-hand.

 alexandriava.gov/go/2773

PACKAGE FREE MAP

Have you been curious about reducing waste or going package free? Visit our website to learn a few easy tips on shopping package-free and reducing your household packaging and plastic waste.

 alexandriava.gov/go/2773



PREVENT FOOD WASTE

Prevent food waste with tips for shopping wisely, using the food you have, and keeping food fresh longer. Check out Save the Food's website for tools such as an interactive dinner party calculator, a digital tool to help to create your next shopping list, an interactive storage guide, and more.

alexandriava.gov/FoodWaste