



Beyond the Bucket

A resource guide to recycling uncommon objects
for the residents of Mercer County, New Jersey

Mercer County Planning Department

September 2019

Updated September 2021

The recommendations contained herein are accurate as of the date of publication. Please confirm that the recipient or source is still accepting materials prior to sending or delivering materials.

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Message from the County Executive

Since the first Earth Day in 1970, citizens have become accustomed to the ethic of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and the recycling logo. Many of us focus on recycling to the exclusion of the imperative to Reduce and Reuse. Recycling is market driven and the challenges to recycling are as great today as they have ever been. Nevertheless, each of us, as consumers, should consider our behaviors and seek to Reduce and Reuse before Recycling.

This guide offers suggestions for the disposal of a variety of items that cannot be recycled through Mercer County curbside collection. Many of the recommendations are opportunities for reuse of materials by others; some are chances to see objects recycled into another form.

Regardless of your approach, this effort seeks to empower Mercer County residents to reduce the trash that will end up in a landfill and, instead, make personal choices that will improve our community and the environment.

All of the information included in this guide has been confirmed as of the date of release. However, please contact the program provider before sending any materials. We welcome additional information for inclusion in this guide and corrections/updates from your experience. Please email them to sustainability@mercercounty.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian M. Hughes".

Brian M. Hughes
Mercer County Executive

Uncommon Items

Air Fresheners

- [TerraCycle: Febreze Air Care](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: Any brand of air fresheners cartridges and plugs, Any brand of air freshener packaging and flexible film, Any brand of air freshener plastic trigger heads, Febreze ONE bottles with trigger heads, Febreze ONE refills
 - Does not accept: Plastic bottles
 - *Mail Program*

Architectural Items

<https://www.recyclingthepast.com/>

Recycling the Past, Inc. is an architectural salvage company that specializes in architectural salvage for the home and garden. This company might be interested in architectural items that you no longer want or need.

Batteries

- [Call to Recycle](#)
- [Lowe's](#)
 - Containers for CFL Bulbs and rechargeable batteries
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Hamilton Marketplace; Route 1 North, West Windsor**
- [Home Depot](#)
 - Containers for CFL Bulbs and rechargeable batteries
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Ewing, Hamilton Marketplace; Route 1 South, West Windsor**
- [Mercer County Improvement Authority – Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics](#)
 - [See page 21](#) for more information
- [Pennington Farmers Market](#)
 - [See page 23](#) for more information
- [Sustainable Princeton](#)
 - [See page 23](#) for more information
- [Staples](#)
 - Recycles rechargeable batteries, old tech, and ink/toner for free
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Hamilton Marketplace; Lawrence Shopping Center; Shops at Windsor Green (West Windsor); Route 130 South, East Windsor**

Beauty Products

- [Aveda](#)
 - Can return any Aveda packaging not typically recycled in curbside bins (such as rollerballs, dispensing systems, applicators, etc.)
 - **Locations in New Jersey: Freehold Raceway Mall, Cherry Hill Mall, Bridgewater Commons, The Malls at Short Hills, Westfield Garden State Plaza, 945 Asbury Ave. (Ocean City)**
- [TerraCycle: Burt's Bees®](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: Burt's Bees® personal care packaging, Burt's Bees® beauty care packaging, Burt's Bees® lip care packaging
 - *Mail Program*
- [TerraCycle: eos Lip Balm and Skin Care Products](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: eos Lip Packaging, eos Shave Packaging, eos Lotion Packaging
 - *Mail Program*
- [TerraCycle: Garnier](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: Hair care packaging such as shampoo caps, conditioner caps, hair gel tubes and caps, hair spray triggers, and hair paste caps. Skin care packaging such as lip balm tubes and caps, soap dispensers and tubes, body wash caps, lotion dispensers and caps. Cosmetics packaging such as lipstick cases, lip gloss tubes, mascara tubes, eye shadow cases, bronzer cases, foundation packaging, powder cases, eyeliner cases, eyeliner pencils, eye shadow tubes, concealer tubes, concealer sticks, and lip liner pencils.
 - *Mail Program*
- [Herbal Essences](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: Herbal Essences shampoo and conditioner bottles and caps, Herbal Essences hair mist bottles and pumps, Herbal Essences flexible plastic tubes and closures, Herbal Essences color and hair treatment packets
 - Does not accept: Aerosol containers
 - *Mail Program*
- [Lush](#)
 - Bring back 5 clean, empty product pots to a Lush store and you will get a free Fresh Face Mask.
 - Pots are 100% made from recycled products



- **Locations in Mercer County: Quaker Bridge Mall**
- [Kiehl's](#)
 - Return 10 full-size items over the course of 10 months (1 per month) and receive a travel-size item (priced up to \$11) for free
 - **Locations in New Jersey: The Mall at Short Hills, Westfield Garden State Plaza**
- [L'Occitane](#)
 - Bring in any beauty packaging (lip balm tubes, makeup remover bottles and pumps, fragrances bottles and pumps, and deodorant sticks), skincare packaging (face mask packaging, eco-refill pouches, and dispensers and tubes for soap, facial cleansers and body lotions) or hair care packaging (pumps and caps from shampoo and conditioner bottles, hair care dispensers and containers, hair product trigger heads, and eco-refill pouches)
 - Receive 10% next full-size product
 - **Locations in New Jersey: Bridgewater Commons, Freehold Raceway Mall, Malls at Short Hill, Menlo Park Mall, Ocean County Mall, Riverside Mall, Westfield Garden State Plaza**
- [MAC Cosmetics](#)
 - Return or send in 6 MAC primary packaging containers and receive one MAC lipstick for free.
 - First cosmetic company to offer a take-back program
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Palmer Square, Princeton**
- [Origins](#)
 - Accepts a wide range of packaging from any brand, including any glass or plastic jars, bottles, tubes, lipstick covers and caps. Just drop off your empty cosmetic packaging to any of the company's retail or department store counters. The program is restricted only to primary packaging; no paper boxes or plastic wrapping will be taken. It also won't take sample or trial size packaging, applicators like sponges or tools like tweezers.
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Macy's, Quaker Bridge Mall**
- [Project Beauty Share](#)
 - Accepts new/gently used beauty products
 - On website there is a list of products that need to be new in order to be donated
 - *Mail Program*

Bicycles

- [The Boys and Girls Clubs of Mercer County Bike Exchange](#)
 - Provides low-cost, quality bikes for families and individuals in Mercer County and raises money for the Boys & Girls Club of Trenton's after-school programs.
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Capitol Plaza Shopping Center, 1500 North Olden Avenue, Ewing, New Jersey.**

Books

- Mercer County Library branches accept book donations. The proceeds from book sales go toward children's and adult programming and other library initiatives. Check with your local library for specific donation guidelines.

Bras

- [I Support the Girls](#)
- [Free the Girls](#)
- [The Bra Recyclers](#)
- [Donate Your Bras](#)
- *Mail Programs*

Brita® Water Filters

- [TerraCycle](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: Brita® Dispensers, Brita® Bottles, Brita® Bottle Filters, Brita® Standard Filters, Brita® Stream Filters, Brita® Longlast Filters, Brita® filter packaging, Brita® faucet filtration system, Brita® pitchers
 - *Mail Program*



Building Supplies

- [Habitat for Humanity](#)
 - Habitat ReStores are independently owned reuse stores operated by local Habitat for Humanity organizations that accept donations and sell home improvement items to the public at a fraction of the retail price to support their mission.
 - Donate: kitchen cabinets, doors and windows, flooring, unused lumber, lighting fixtures, fencing, bricks/blocks. Click for a [decision flowchart](#) to help determine if your material is acceptable.
 - **Locations: Langhorne ReStore of Bucks County HFH (1337 E. Lincoln Highway, Langhorne, PA 19056), Burlington & Mercer Co. ReStore (2465 S Broad St., #2E, Hamilton, NJ 08610), additional locations on website**
- [Hamilton Ecological Facility \(open only to Hamilton residents\)](#)
 - [See page 22](#) for more details

Business Attire

- See also Clothing
- [Dress for Success](#)
 - International non-profit that empowers women to achieve economic independence by providing professional attire to women in need
 - **Location in Mercer County: 3131 Princeton Pike Building 4 – Suite 209**
- [Career Gear](#)
 - Promotes economic independence of low-income men by providing financial literacy training, professional attire, career development tools, job-readiness and essential life-skills training that help men enter the workforce and stay employed.
 - **Location closest to Mercer County: 125 Maiden Lane 3B, New York City**
- [The Father Center](#)
 - Accepts donations of men's clothing in good condition for their "Dress2Impress" men's employment program.
 - **Location: 1 West Sate Street, 5th Floor, Trenton NJ, 08608**
 - **Telephone: 609-695-3663**



Cars

- There are numerous charities that will accept vehicle donations to support various causes. Two local programs are:
 - PAC Cars Ministry: <https://princetonalliance.org/bring-hope/care/cars-ministry/#CarsFAQ>
 - HomeFront: <https://www.homefrontnj.org/>

Carpeting

- [CarpetCycle](#)
 - Residential drop-off is not currently in service but one is able to call for a pickup
 - Commercial drop-off and pickup in service

Cellphones

- [Apple](#)
 - One can see if their Apple Products are eligible to be bought back by the company to be refurbished and resold.
 - If products are not eligible to be bought back one can still send Apple their products to be properly recycled
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Quaker Bridge Mall**
- [Lowe's](#)
 - Containers for cell phones
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Hamilton Marketplace; Route 1 North, West Windsor**
- [Home Depot](#)

- Containers for cell phones
- **Locations in Mercer County: Ewing, Hamilton Marketplace; Route 1 South, West Windsor**
- [Mercer County Improvement Authority – Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics](#)
 - [See page 21](#) for more information
- [Sustainable Princeton](#)
 - [See page 23](#) for more information
- [Target](#)
 - Trade in old electronics and receive a Target gift card in return
 - In stores they have kiosks for MP3 players, cellphones and ink cartridges
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Nassau Park Pavilion, West Windsor; East Windsor Village**
- [Verizon Wireless](#)
 - Return any phone brand or carrier to Verizon and get a gift card if it can be reused. If not they will recycle.
 - Donate to Verizon’s HopeLine charity, which supports domestic violence.
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Hamilton Marketplace; 950 Route 33, Hamilton; Mercer Mall; 200 Campus Town Center, Ewing; Quaker Bridge Mall; Princeton Shopping Center**

Cereal Bags

- See also Plastic Bags/Plastic Film
- [TerraCycle: Malt-O-Meal](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: Any brand of plastic cereal bags and plastic cereal bag liners
 - *Mail Program*

Cigarette Waste

- [TerraCycle](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: extinguished cigarettes, cigarette filters, loose tobacco pouches, outer plastic packaging, inner foil packaging, rolling paper, ash
 - *Mail Program*



Clothing

- See also Business Attire and Formal Wear
- [American Eagle](#)
 - Bring in a jeans to an American Eagle store and receive \$10 off your next pair
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Quaker Bridge Mall**

- [& Other Stories](#)
 - Bring in any brand of clothes and/or shoes to be recycled and receive 10% off next purchase
 - **Locations closest to Mercer County: New York City**
- [Eileen Fisher](#)
 - Return Eileen Fisher label clothing to an Eileen Fisher store and receive \$5 in store credit for each item.
 - Clothes will be either resold on the Eileen Fisher website or sold to a textile company
 - **Locations in New Jersey: 45 Enterprise Ave. N., Secaucus; Short Hills Mall**
- [Homefront](#)
 - HomeFront's mission is to end homelessness in Central New Jersey by harnessing the caring, resources and expertise of the community. Furnish the Future helps over 500 families a year.
 - Accepts: Gently used clothing bagged, boxed or hanging
- [Levi Strauss & Co](#)
 - One can bring any brand of clothes and shoes to a Levi Strauss store and receive 20% off a single item
 - Clothing and shoes are either re-worn, repurposed or recycled
 - **Locations in New Jersey: Jackson Premium Outlets, Jersey Shore Premium Outlets, Gloucester Premium Outlets, The Mills of Jersey Gardens, Tanger Outlets Atlantic City**
- [Madewell](#)
 - Bring in old jeans and receive \$20 off a new pair
 - Jeans used for housing insulation
 - **Locations in New Jersey: Bridgewater Commons, The Grove West, Westfield Garden State Plaza, The Mall at Short Hills, Tice's Corner Marketplace**
- [The North Face](#)
 - One can bring any brand of clothes and shoes to a North Face store and receive a \$10 voucher toward the next \$100 or more purchase
 - Clothing and shoes are sent to their non-profit (Shoes4Souls) whose mission is to create sustainable jobs and provide relief through the distribution of the donated clothes
 - **Locations in New Jersey: Cherry Hill Mall, Westfield Garden State Plaza**
- [Patagonia](#)
 - Bring in Patagonia brand things and receive store credit
 - **Location closest to Mercer County: 72 Greene St., New York City**
- [Rag & Bone](#)
 - Bring in old denim and receive 20% denim purchase that day
 - **Location closest to New Jersey: 182A Columbus Ave., New York City**

Coloring Materials

- [Crazy Crayons](#)
 - Donate unwanted or broken crayons; for distribution at art programs, hospitals, orphanages, women's shelters, homeless shelters and low-income day cares
 - Shipping label is not covered by company

- *Mail Program*
- [Crayola ColorCycle](#)
 - Set up a donation center through your school to send used markers
 - *Mail Program*

Compact Discs

- [Monmouth Recycling](#)
 - Accepts disc items to be recycled at 50 cents a pound
 - **Location in New Jersey: Tinton Falls**
- Most libraries will accept donations of used CDs. Check with your local library.



Compact Fluorescent Bulbs

- [Lowe's](#)
 - Planting: Turn in plant pots, trays and tags at any Lowe's
 - Containers for CFL bulbs and rechargeable batteries
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Hamilton Marketplace; Route 1 North, West Windsor**
- [Mercer County Improvement Authority – Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics](#)
 - [See page 21](#) for more information

Computers

- [Apple](#)
 - One can see if their Apple Products are eligible to be bought back by the company to be refurbished and resold.
 - If products are not eligible to be bought back one can still send Apple their products to be properly recycled
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Quaker Bridge Mall**
- [Best Buy](#)
 - Can bring in computer to store; can be bought back and resold or recycled
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Nassau Park Pavilion, West Windsor**
- [Hopewell – Public Works](#)
 - [See page 22](#) for more information
- [Mercer County Improvement Authority – Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics](#)
 - [See page 21](#) for more information
- [Pennington Borough – Sticker Program](#)
 - [See page 23](#) for more information
- [Staples](#)
 - Tech Trade-In: Will get Staples-cash for wanted devices/ unwanted will be recycled
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Hamilton Marketplace; Lawrence Shopping Center; Shops at Windsor Green (West Windsor); Route 130 South, East Windsor**
- [Target](#)
 - Trade in old electronics and receive a Target gift card in return

- **Locations in Mercer County: Nassau Park Pavilion, West Windsor; East Windsor Village**

Contacts

- [TerraCycle: Bausch + Lomb ONE by ONE](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: Any brand's contact lenses and blister packs
 - *Mail Program*

Dental Hygiene

- [TerraCycle: Colgate Oral Care](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: toothpaste tubes and caps, toothbrushes, toothpaste cartons, toothbrush outer packaging and floss containers
 - Does not accept: electric toothbrushes, battery toothbrushes, and/or their parts are not recyclable through the program
 - *Mail Program*
- [TerraCycle: Tom's of Maine](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: mouthwash bottles and caps, deodorant containers and caps, toothpaste tubes and caps, soap packaging, floss containers and toothbrushes
 - *Mail Program*



Digital Versatile Disks (DVDs)

- Most libraries will accept donations of used DVDs. Check with your local library.

Dixon Brand Classroom Supplies

- [TerraCycle](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: Prang Art Markers, Ticonderoga Highlighters, Ticonderoga & Dixon Pencils (mechanical and wood), LYRA & Prang Paint Kits, Prang Crayons, Prang Glue Sticks, Prang & Dixon Erasers, Prang & LYRA Colored Pencils
 - *Mail Program*
- [TerraCycle: Honest Kids](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: Aluminum and plastic drink pouches without the straw
 - *Mail Program*

Eyeglasses

- [New Jersey Lions Club](#)
 - Accepts all type of glasses, prescription or nonprescription. They are cleaned and repaired and then donated to those in need
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Hopewell Valley (Pennington Quality Market, Stony Brook Elementary School, Pennington Presbyterian Church), West Windsor (Vision Center at Wal-Mart, McCaffrey's Supermarket, West Windsor Library)**

Fabric Care/Laundry

- [TerraCycle](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: Paperboard laundry care packaging, All brands of #5/#2 plastic laundry caps
 - Caps must be secured to their respective bottles when being recycled
 - *Mail Program*
- [TerraCycle: Arm & Hammer™ and OxiClean™](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: Arm & Hammer™ Baking Soda pouches, Arm & Hammer™ Power Paks Laundry Detergent pouches, OxiClean™ Detergent Paks pouches, OxiClean™ 2-in-1 Stain Fighter Power Paks pouches, OxiClean™ White Revive Laundry Stain Remover Power Paks pouches
 - *Mail Program*

Food (Surplus)

- There are numerous food banks/pantries in New Jersey that accept donations of surplus food. For a nearby food bank/pantry location, visit https://www.foodpantries.org/st/new_jersey.
- Rock and Wrap It Up! (tm) Inc. is a nonprofit organization that helps recover extra food from music and sporting events, among other places. The food is then donated to shelters. <http://www.rockandwrapitup.org>.

Formal Wear (including prom dresses and wedding gowns)

- See also Clothing
- [Becca's Closet](#)
 - Non-profit organization that offers new and gently-worn formal dresses to high school girls for prom and special occasions at no cost.
 - **Location in New Jersey: 400 Jefferson St., Hackettstown**
- [Project Glam](#)
 - Accepts dresses up to 10 years old (or older, if the dress is black)
 - *Mail Program*
- [Angel Gown Program](#)
 - The Angel Gown® Program provides comfort for bereaved families through the gift of a beautiful custom made gown for final photos and for burial services.
 - *Mail Program*

- [Brides Across America](#)
 - Supports military brides
- [Brides Against Breast Cancer](#)

Furniture

- [HomeFront](#)
 - HomeFront’s mission is to end homelessness in Central New Jersey by harnessing the caring, resources and expertise of the community. Furnish the Future helps over 500 families a year.
 - Accepts: bunkbeds (have frames and small parts tapped and bagged), Dressers (small and medium sized), small sofas, love-seats, dinette tables and chairs, end tables and coffee tables, and bookcases
 - **Locations: 1880 Princeton Ave., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648**
 - See also www.FurnitureBanks.org
- [Habitat for Humanity](#)
 - Habitat ReStores are independently owned reuse stores operated by local Habitat for Humanity organizations that accept donations and sell home improvement items to the public at a fraction of the retail price to support their mission.
 - Donate: Furniture, Click for a [decision flowchart](#) to help determine if your material is acceptable.
 - **Locations: Langhorne ReStore of Bucks County HFH (1337 E. Lincoln Highway, Langhorne, PA 19056) Burlington & Mercer Co. ReStore-Hamilton HFH (2465 S Broad St., #2E, Hamilton, NJ 08610), additional locations available on website**

Gardening Equipment

- [Lowe’s](#)
 - Planting: Turn in plant pots, trays and tags at any Lowe’s
 - Containers for CFL bulbs and rechargeable batteries
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Hamilton Marketplace; Route 1 North, West Windsor**

Greeting Cards

- [Saint Jude’s Children’s Hospital](#)
 - Take the used donated cards and make them into new ones; they are then resold. Money is used to support the mission of Saint Jude’s
 - Cannot Accept: Hallmark, American Greetings or Disney Cards
 - *Mail Program*



Hearing Aids

- [Hearing Aid Project](#)
 - Donate old hearing aids in any type of condition
 - Donation is tax deductible

- *Mail Program*

Holiday Lights

- [Holiday LEDs](#)
 - Send in your old Holiday Lights and receive 20% off next purchase
 - *Mail Program*

Home Appliances

- [Habitat for Humanity](#)
 - Habitat ReStores are independently owned reuse stores operated by local Habitat for Humanity organizations that accept donations and sell home improvement items to the public at a fraction of the retail price to support their mission.
 - Donate: Home appliances. Click for a [decision flowchart](#) to help determine if your material is acceptable.
 - **Locations: Langhorne ReStore of Bucks County HFH (1337 E. Lincoln Highway, Langhorne, PA 19056) Burlington & Mercer Co. ReStore-Hamilton HFH (2465 S Broad St., #2E, Hamilton, NJ 08610), additional locations available on website**
- [HomeFront](#)
 - HomeFront’s mission is to end homelessness in Central New Jersey by harnessing the caring, resources and expertise of the community. Furnish the Future helps over 500 families a year.
 - Accepts: Kitchenware (like dishes, pots, pans, etc.) and small appliances
 - **Locations: 1880 Princeton Ave., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648**
- [Hopewell – Public Works](#)
 - [See page 22](#) for more information.
- [Pennington Borough – Sticker Program](#)
 - [See page 23](#) for more information.



Ink/Toner Cartridges

- [Best Buy](#)
 - Ink and Toner: For every cartridge brought in receive \$2 on next ink purchase of \$40 or more/toner purchase of \$100 or more (up to \$10 to be received)
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Nassau Park Pavilion, West Windsor**
- [Mercer County Improvement Authority – Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics](#)
 - [See page 21](#) for more information
- [Princeton Farmers Market](#)
 - [See page 23](#) for more information
- [Staples](#)
 - Recycles rechargeable batteries, old tech, and ink/toner for free

- **Locations in Mercer County: Hamilton Marketplace; Lawrence Shopping Center; Shops at Windsor Green (West Windsor); Route 130 South, East Windsor**
- [Target](#)
 - In stores they have kiosks for MP3 players, cellphones and ink cartridges
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Nassau Park Pavilion, West Windsor; East Windsor Village**

Linens

- [HomeFront](#)
 - HomeFront's mission is to end homelessness in Central New Jersey by harnessing the caring, resources and expertise of the community. Furnish the Future helps over 500 families a year.
 - Accepts: bed sheets (twin, full and queen size) and towels without holes or stains
 - **Location: 1880 Princeton Ave., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648**
- Animal Shelters generally accept sheets, quilts, duvets and towels
 - **Locations in Mercer County: EASEL Animal Rescue, Ewing; Hamilton Township Animal Shelter; Trenton Animal Shelter;**

Mattresses

- [CJP Group](#)
 - Call to arrange for mattress pick up; it is then used to make housing insulation
 - \$10 per piece when dropped off
 - *Call for more information (732-620-9787)*
- [HomeFront](#)
 - HomeFront's mission is to end homelessness in Central New Jersey by harnessing the caring, resources and expertise of the community. Furnish the Future helps over 500 families a year.
 - Accepts: Queen, full and twin size mattresses with box springs and frames in good condition (without holes or stains)
 - **Location: 1880 Princeton Ave., Lawrenceville, NJ 08648**



Medical Equipment

- [Back In Action](#)
 - Can post different medical equipment to either donate or sell all throughout New Jersey
 - **Locations: Depends on who needs the product**
- [Goodwill HomeMedical](#)
 - Donation service; medical equipment will be donated to someone who needs it
 - Is tax deductible
 - **Location in New Jersey: 300 Benigno Blvd., Bellmawr**
- [Princeton Farmers Market](#)
 - Accepts pill bottles

- [See page 23](#) for more information

Packing Materials

- [UPS](#)
 - Accepts clean packing peanuts and bubble wrap to reuse or recycle
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Southfield Shopping Center, Princeton Shopping Center, Hopewell Crossing Shopping Center, Hamilton Marketplace, Lawrence Shopping Center, 174 Nassau St., Princeton**
- [Sustainable Princeton](#)
 - [See page 23](#) for more information



Plastic Bags (Grocery, Produce, Snack, etc)

- [Wrap Recycling Action Program](#)
 - Various stores have collection bins for plastic bags
 - **Locations in Mercer County: East Windsor (Kohl's, Target, Wal-Mart), Hamilton (Kohl's, Wal-Mart), Lawrence (Acme, JCPenny), Pennington (ShopRite), Princeton (McCaffrey's, Whole Earth Center), Trenton (Acme), West Windsor (Lowe's, McCaffrey's, Target, Wal-Mart, Wegmans, Whole Foods Market)**



Plastic #5

- [Preserve Gimme5](#)
 - Mail in Program
 - Preserve sorts, washes, melts, pelletizes and tests recycled plastic into raw materials to create beautiful, new Preserve products.
 - **Please note that as of November 27, 2020, the Gimme 5 mail in program was paused due to logistical challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Preserve hopes to reopen the program by September 1, 2021. Please check the website.**
 - **Location in Mercer County: Whole Foods, West Windsor – PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS LOCATION IS NOT CURRENTLY ACCEPTING #5 PLASTICS.**

Plastic #6

- [TerraCycle](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)

- Accepts: #6 rigid plastic cups (such as Solo cups)
- *Mail Program*

Prescription Drugs

- [New Jersey Medical Drop-Off](#)
 - Consumers from anywhere in New Jersey can visit the boxes seven days a week to drop off unneeded and expired medications - and keep them away from those at risk of abusing them.
 - Cannot accept syringes or liquid medication
 - **Locations: police headquarters in each town**

Razors

- [TerraCycle: Gillette](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: All brands of blades and razors (systems and disposable units, and replaceable-blade cartridge units), rigid plastic packaging, and flexible plastic bag packaging
 - *Mail Program*

Shoes

- [Souls4Souls](#)
 - Drop Off or Mail In program
 - Accepts new and gently used shoes
 -
- [Nike](#)
 - Return any brand of athletic shoes to Nike; will reuse the materials in the shoes to make Nike Grind
 - **Locations in New Jersey: Jackson Premium Outlets, The Outlets at Bergen Town Center, The Mills at Jersey Gardens, Gloucester Premium Outlets, Jersey Shore Premium Outlets, Tanger Outlets in Atlantic City, Newark**
- [Levi Strauss & Co](#)
 - One can bring any brand of clothes and shoes to a Levi Strauss store and receive 20% off a single item
 - Clothing and shoes are either re-worn, repurposed or recycled
 - **Location in New Jersey: Jackson Premium Outlets, Jersey Shore Premium Outlets, Gloucester Premium Outlets, The Mills of Jersey Gardens, Tanger Outlets in Atlantic City**
- [The North Face](#)
 - Bring any brand of clothes and shoes to a North Face store and receive a \$10 voucher toward the next \$100-or-more purchase
 - Clothing and shoes are sent to their non-profit (Shoes4Souls) whose mission is to create sustainable jobs and provide relief through the distribution of the donated clothes
 - **Locations in New Jersey: Cherry Hill Mall, Westfield Garden State Plaza**

Snack Bag

- [TerraCycle: Swedish Fish](#)
 - Free Program (See page 26 for more information)
 - Accepts: Swedish Fish packaging
 - *Mail Program*
- [TerraCycle: Entenmann's](#)
 - Free Program (See page 26 for more information)
 - Accepts: Entenmann's Little Bites and Little Bites minis wrappers
 - *Mail Program*
- [TerraCycle: Late July](#)
 - Free Program (See page 26 for more information)
 - Accepts: Late July product bags
 - *Mail Program*
- [TerraCycle: Calbee](#)
 - Free Program (See page 26 for more information)
 - Accepts: all Calbee flexible packaging
 - *Mail Program*

Sports Equipment

- [USA Soccer Federation](#)
 - Collects gently used soccer equipment and redistributes it throughout the United States
 - Responsible for shipping/delivery cost
 - *Mail Program*
- [Pitch in for Baseball](#)
 - About 60% of the equipment PIFB has available to give to groups in need comes from the amazing efforts of the volunteers (mostly kids) who collect gear on our behalf all around the US and Canada each year.
 - Equipment most needed are: baseballs, gloves (RH/LH) 11" or larger, BBCOR and USA Baseball standard bats, catcher's gear
 - *Mail Program*
- [Rebounce](#)
 - Tennis balls that have bounced their last on the court will now leave a legacy for the bounce of future generations of tennis balls as they can now be ground up and incorporated as a component in tennis court construction and resurfacing.
 - Will provide the shipping label and accepts any amount of tennis balls
 - *Mail Program*

Squeeze Pouches

- [TerraCycle: GoGo Squeeze](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: Healthy snack plastic pouches and caps
 - *Mail Program*



Televisions

- [Best Buy](#)
 - Recycles a wide range of electronic equipment
 - If recycler does not wish to bring in large appliances into store (TVs, dishwashers, dryers, etc.) Best Buy will remove the item for a fee when delivering a new product
 - **Locations in New Jersey: Nassau Park Pavilion, West Windsor**
- [Hopewell – Public Works](#)
 - [See page 22](#) for more information
- [Mercer County Improvement Authority – Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics](#)
 - [See page 21](#) for more information
- [Monmouth Recycling](#)
 - Older televisions (not flat screens) are accepted at 50 cents a pound; all others are accepted for free
 - **Location in New Jersey: 3250 Shafto Road, Tinton Falls**
- [Pennington Borough – Sticker Program](#)
 - [See page 23](#) for more information
- [Staples](#)
 - Tech Trade-In: Will get Staples-cash for wanted devices/unwanted will be recycled
 - **Locations in Mercer County: Hamilton Marketplace; Lawrence Shopping Center; Shops at Windsor Green (West Windsor); Route 130 South, East Windsor**

Toys

- [TerraCycle: Lol Surprise](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: All L.O.L Surprise!™ packaging, accessories and products.
 - *Mail Program*
- [TerraCycle: Hasbro Toys](#)
 - Free Program ([See page 26](#) for more information)
 - Accepts: All Hasbro toys and games. For a full list, [click here](#).
 - Does not accept: batteries, juvenile products (playpens, car seats, high chairs, swings, bouncy seats, etc.), ride-on products (bicycles, tricycles, scooters, skateboards, etc.)
 - *Mail Program*

- [Second Chance Toys](#)
 - Putting clean plastic toys in the hands of disadvantaged children
 - **Location closest to Mercer County: Montgomery Township Recycling, 12 Harlingen Road, Belle Mead, NJ 08502 (limited drop-off hours)**

VHS Tapes

- [Monmouth Recycling](#)
 - Accepts VHS tapes/cassettes to be recycled at 50 cents a pound
 - **Location in New Jersey: 3250 Shafto Road, Tinton Falls**

Wine Corks (natural, not synthetic)

- [Sustainable Princeton](#)
 - See page 23 for more information
- [Whole Foods](#)
 - Cork donation box
 - **Locations: Windsor Green Shopping Center**
- [Recork](#)
 - Must be a package of 15 pounds (1,500 corks) or heavier for corks to be accepted
 - *Mail Program*



Wire Clothes Hangers

- Most dry cleaners will accept donations of wire hangers with the paper, plastic, foam and cardboard removed

County, Municipal and Local Programs

[Mercer County Improvement Authority – Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics](#)

- Items Accepted:
 - Electronics: computers, laptops, mainframes/servers, cables/wiring, copiers, fax machines, monitors, keyboards, mice, stereo/video equipment, cell phones, telephones, toner cartridges, typewriters, printers, scanners, controllers, lab/test equipment, computer speakers, televisions, laptop batteries, APC/UPS
 - Hazardous Waste: aerosol cans, used motor oil, lead/acid batteries, kerosene, propane gas tanks, pesticides/herbicides, fertilizer, car batteries, rechargeable batteries, paint thinner, oil-based paint, stains/varnishes, gasoline, anti-freeze, driveway sealer, insect repellent, mercury, fluorescent/Halogen/CFL bulbs, fire extinguishers, surge plugs, car flares
- Not Accepted:
 - Electronics: household appliances, refrigerators, freezers, air-conditioning units, dehumidifiers, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, washing machines, dryers, dishwashers
 - Hazardous Waste: latex/acrylic paint, heating oil, infectious waste, radioactive material, explosives/munitions, railroad ties, asbestos, tires, wood, fencing, air conditioners, helium/oxygen tanks, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, unknowns, solar lights, wheelchair batteries, kerosene heaters

[East Windsor Recycling](#)

- Electronics Recycling: Residents can drop off electronic recycling, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., excluding holidays, at the Township Public Works facility located at the corner of Ward Street and Etra Road. For questions on a specific item not listed, contact Public Works at 609-443-4000, ext. 215 or by email at dpw@east-windsor.nj.us.
- White Goods Recycling: White goods curbside pickup is performed on the third Wednesday of each month for the entire Garbage District. White goods materials consist of stoves, refrigerators, clothes washers, clothes dryers, dishwashers, hot water heaters, other metal-jacketed appliances and steel.
- Cellular Phone Recycling: Cell phones can be dropped off at the Municipal Building, located at 16 Lanning Blvd., East Windsor, and the East Windsor Police/Court Building located at One Mile Road, East Windsor. Any questions, call Public Works at 609-443-4000, ext. 215.
- Other Recycling Services: Residents may drop off the following items at the Public Works facility on Ward Street, Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.
 - Computers, televisions, and all other electronics
 - Car batteries
 - Standard-size automobile tires, without rims. No commercial tires are accepted. Dealers, garages or other businesses may not drop off tires at this site.
 - White Goods drop-off is available for residents who do not wish to wait for the third Wednesday of the month for white goods collection. White goods drop-off is also available to any township resident who is not within the garbage district.

Ewing Bulk Waste

- Each Ewing address is entitled to 12 NO FEE bulk waste drop-off visits to the Convenience Center on 136 Scotch Road per year as of March 1, 2019.

Hamilton Ecological Facility (open only to Hamilton residents)

- Items Accepted Without Fee:
 - Televisions, leaves, unpainted/untreated wood, junk/office mail, tires (rims removed, no commercial tires), auto batteries, motor oil, cell phones, DVD/VCR players, computer equipment, brush, newspapers, cardboard, grass clippings (no commercial), metal items, concrete/cinder blocks/bricks
- Items Accepted With Fee:
 - Commercial vehicles

Hightstown Borough – Public Works

- Bulk items are collected the last Monday of each month by appointment only. All inquiries and/or to schedule a pickup, contact Public Works at 609-490-5115.

Hopewell Borough – Public Works

- Car Batteries: Public Works Department will pick up old car and lawn equipment batteries, by appointment only.
- Bulk Trash & Electronics: Except for the traditional one-day-only town-wide bulk pickup day announced each year (typically in June – and not guaranteed – scheduled each spring based on funding availability), the Borough DOES NOT collect bulk trash items as part of the municipal waste collection contract.

Hopewell Township – Public Works

- Electronic Recycling
 - Camera equipment, central processing units, circuit boards, copiers, electric wire, fax machines, keyboards, laptops/peripherals, microwave ovens, mouse, networking equipment, phones, printers, scanners, stereo equipment, televisions, VCRs
- Curbside Collections of Freon Appliances
 - \$25 fee per appliance
- Curbside Collection of Tires
 - \$3 per tire smaller than 16 inches and \$10 per tire larger than

Lawrence Township – Curbside Organic Waste

Cost of \$38.50 per month, residents receive a 32-gallon recycle cart where they can put all organic waste (items made through grown materials) to be delivered to local farms for composting

- Items Accepted: Raw food, scraps, cooked food, meat, bones, paper towels, pizza boxes, fruit and vegetable peels, litter box material, coffee grounds, tea bags, fish, egg shells, egg cartons (non-Styrofoam), waxed cardboard, oils, fats, butters, brown paper bags, paper take-out containers, newspapers, office paper, fruit and nuts, breads, pasta, grains, liquids and sauces, houseplants and flower bouquets, dairy products

Pennington Farmers Market

- Once a month the [Hopewell Valley Green Team](#) collects items to be recycled or upcycled.
 - Items Accepted
 - stick deodorant containers
 - Brita & Pur water filters
 - Styrofoam egg cartons
 - CDs/DVDs
 - wine bottle corks (not synthetic)
 - oral care product packages
 - button/cell batteries
 - cell phones, MP3 players, chargers, digital cameras, tablets, Bluetooth devices

Pennington Borough – Sticker Program

- Stickers may be purchased at the Pennington Borough Hall and placed on items -- each sticker covers around 40 pounds. After stickers are affixed on bulk items they're cleared to be picked up with regular trash on your scheduled day.
 - Items Accepted:
 - Tires – 1 sticker
 - Computers – 3 stickers
 - Televisions – 3 to 5 depending on size
 - Washer – 5 stickers
 - Dryer – 4 stickers
 - Refrigerator, freezer, dehumidifier, air conditioner – 8 stickers

Sustainable Princeton

- Periodically, Sustainable Princeton hosts “Don’t Be Idle, Let’s Upcycle!”, a waste collection event where the organization finds upcycling and recycling opportunities for many hard to recycle items.
 - Items Accepted
 - Batteries
 - Bikes
 - Block Styrofoam and packing peanuts (must be brought in a sealed bag as to not spread debris)
 - Cell phones/tablets
 - Printer cartridges
 - Pill bottles (remove all labels)
 - Wine corks

Robbinsville Township Public Works

- Car/boat/wet cell batteries -- drop off at Public Works only
- Rechargeable, Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion), Nickel Zinc (Ni-Zn), and Small Sealed Lead (SSLA-PB), example: watch, cell phone, power tools and camera batteries – drop-off locations at Public Works and Senior Center

- Computers / printers / monitors and computer accessories -- call Public Works at 609-259-0422 to schedule a pickup the last Wednesday of each month or you may drop them off at Public Works
- Tires -- must be off the rim -- drop off at Public Works only

[West Windsor – Electronics](#)

- Electronics can be recycled at West Windsor Dumpster Day events

[Trenton City Public Works Department](#)

- The Division of Solid Waste Management offers a special pickup for large bulk items. Bulk items include furniture and household appliances. For more information or to schedule an appointment for a special pickup, please call 609-989-3175, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Types of Plastic

Within each chasing arrows triangle, there is a number which ranges from one to seven. The purpose of the number is to identify the type of plastic used for the product, and not all plastics are recyclable or even reusable. There are numerous plastic-based products that cannot break down and cannot be recycled.



PETE

polyethylene terephthalate

soft drink bottles, mineral water, fruit juice container, cooking oil



HDPE

high-density polyethylene

milk jugs, cleaning agents, laundry detergents, bleaching agents, shampoo bottles, washing and shower soaps



PVC

polyvinyl chloride

trays for sweets, fruit, plastic packing (bubble foil) and food foils to wrap the foodstuff



LDPE

low-density polyethylene

crushed bottles, shopping bags, highly-resistant sacks and most of the wrappings



PP

polypropylene

furniture, consumers, luggage, toys as well as bumpers, lining and external borders of the cars



PS

polystyrene

toys, hard packing, refrigerator trays, cosmetic bags, costume jewellery, CD cases, vending cups



OTHER

other plastics, including acrylic, polycarbonate, polyactic fibers, nylon, fiberglass

What is TerraCycle?

What is TerraCycle?

TerraCycle is a privately owned recycling company headquartered in Trenton, New Jersey. Its business model depends upon curbside collection program to collect non-recyclable pre-consumer and post-consumer waste, and then partners with corporate donors or municipalities to turn it into raw material to be used in new products. The company licenses its name to manufacturers of roughly 200 products made using its raw material.

What is the TerraCycle points program?

Members of TerraCycle's free recycling programs are automatically enrolled in the TerraCycle Points Program. For each shipment sent in, there is the opportunity to earn points that can then be redeemed in a form of donation towards a choice charity. For a list of charities, [please click here](#).

What is the difference between the Paid or Free programs?

While free programs are sponsored through a certain corporation to cover the fees, the paid Zero-Waste Boxes are not; thus the cost of recycling is upon the consumers themselves. However, they have many beneficial programs to recycle common household/work items and can be implemented in community zones or office buildings. Find out more [here](#).

Below are examples of what type of items can be recycled through the paid Zero-Waste Box programs.

- Alkaline batteries
- Stuffed toys
- Coffee capsules (K-Cups)
- Laminated paper packaging
- Disposable gloves
- Hotel amenity bottles

Please note that because TerraCycle works with different companies to create recycling programs, the length of the each program varies. The TerraCycle programs included in this guide are up to date as of release of this guide. However, please confirm with TerraCycle before sending any materials.

Materials not accepted in curbside recycling

There are many common-day objects that people recycle thinking they can be reused but they cannot. Some of these objects can be recycled through different means.

- ❖ Aerosol Cans
 - Since spray cans also contain propellants and chemicals, they are treated as hazardous material.
- ❖ Aluminum Foil/Baking Pans
- ❖ Bandage Tins & Cookie Tins
- ❖ Brightly Dyed Paper
 - Strong paper dyes work just like that red sock in your white laundry.
- ❖ Bulky Plastics
 - Kid toys, laundry baskets, plastic furniture, etc.
- ❖ Carbon & Waxed Paper
- ❖ Ceramics & Pottery
- ❖ Clothes Hangers
 - Wire hangers: Most recycling centers don't have the capability to recycle wire. However, most dry cleaners will accept donations of wire hangers with the paper, plastic, foam and cardboard removed.
- ❖ Coffee K-Cups
- ❖ Diapers
 - It is not commercially feasible to reclaim the paper and plastic in disposable diapers.
- ❖ Drinking Glasses, Dishes & Broken Window Glass
 - Bottles and jars are recyclable.
- ❖ Hardcover Books
 - Can be recycled if the book cover has been removed.
- ❖ Light Bulbs
- ❖ Motor Oil & Anti-Freeze Containers
 - Can be recycled through the Mercer County Improvement Authority (see more information on page 21)
- ❖ Paper Lunch Bags
- ❖ Packing Peanuts
- ❖ Plastic Bags
 - Even if stated as recyclable, plastic bags cannot be placed in your curbside bucket; they clog and break the machines.
- ❖ Plastic Beverage Caps
 - Most caps are not made of the same type of plastic as the bottle; they are usually #5. Caps should be removed and thrown in trash.
- ❖ Plastic Utensils
- ❖ Plastics with #3 - #7 Symbols
 - Plastics #1 and #2 can be placed in curbside bucket, however.
- ❖ Pizza Boxes
 - Can be composted but **cannot** be placed in your curbside bucket, even if there is no grease.
- ❖ Styrofoam

- ❖ Takeout containers
 - Plastic containers that contained food can't be recycled unless they are thoroughly rinsed out and are #1 or #2 plastics. Oily residue left on the containers makes them unrecyclable.
- ❖ Tissue Paper, Napkins, Paper Plates & Paper Towels
- ❖ Yogurt cups
 - Many centers don't recycle plastics with the #3 through #7.
- ❖ Three-Ring Binders

How to Compost

What is composting?

Composting is a form of waste disposal where organic waste can decompose naturally under oxygen-rich conditions. While similar to fertilizer, which mixes with the soil to feed plants, compost is used to enrich the soil itself giving the plants a much better environment to thrive. Composting is also a great way to reduce food waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

Why should I compost?

There are many reasons to compost – saving money and resources, improving your soil and reducing your impact on the environment. Adding compost to your home garden will not only fertilize your soil but feed it which in turn will help plants grow.

How can I compost?

There are just two easy steps when setting up your compost.

1. Find a bin made of durable plastic or metal and place it outside
2. Add your green and brown materials in as you go along your daily life

The material at the bottom of the bin will be the first to decompose and be ready for gardening use.

What can I compost?

All compostable materials are either nitrogen-based or carbon-based; in order to have odor-free, healthy compost, the mix should be one-third green (nitrogen-based) compost, to every two-thirds of brown (carbon-based) compost.

- Examples of nitrogen-based
 - Coffee grounds and filters
 - Seaweed
 - Fresh leaves and plants
 - Grass clippings
 - Animal hair
 - Fruits and vegetables
- Examples of Carbon-based
 - Dry leaves
 - Straw
 - Wood ash
 - Dried grass
 - 100% cotton fabrics
 - Corncobs
 - Eggshells
 - Cardboard
 - Shredded paper
 - Newspaper

<https://mgofmc.org/compost-links/>

Useful Links

Mercer County Improvement Authority: <http://www.mcianj.org/>

Mercer County: <http://www.mercercounty.org/>

Earth 911: <https://earth911.com/>

Recycling NJ: <http://recyclingnj.com/>

Sustainable Jersey: <http://www.sustainablejersey.com/>

United States Environmental Protection Agency: <https://www.epa.gov/recycle>

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Educational Campaign Flyer**