

# COUNTY OF MORRIS

## County Administrator

Office of Communications & Digital Media

P.O. Box 900  
Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0900

### **Board of Chosen Freeholders**

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Douglas R. Cabana

*Deputy Director*

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*County Administrator*

John Bonanni

*Communications Director*

Larry Ragonese

973-285-6015

lragonese@co.morris.nj.us

www.MorrisCountyNJ.gov

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For Immediate Release

## **MORRIS MUA URGES RESIDENTS TO PUT OUT ONLY ACCEPTABLE ITEMS FOR CURBSIDE RECYCLING**

*NEEDS YOUR HELP TO ELIMINATE CONTAMINATED ITEMS*

In an effort to capture only **acceptable** materials during curbside recycling collection, the Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA), will implement a “tag-it and leave-it” inspection program this summer in the municipalities served by the MUA’s “all-in-one” single-stream curbside recycling collection program.

Due to recent enforcement of rigorous restrictions banning unacceptable materials from the curbside recycling stream, the MUA has been assessing unacceptable items in the recycling stream.

**The most common and problematic unacceptable materials** (contaminants) found mixed with acceptable recyclables include:

- plastic bags
- plastic film/plastic packaging
- foam (Styrofoam)
- hangers (plastic, metal, wood)
- food waste
- wood scraps
- plastic bottles/containers coded #3, #4, #6 & #7 (**only** plastic bottles/containers coded #1, #2 & #5 are acceptable).

For curbside collection, recyclables must be loose in a reusable container with handles and a lid. Also, recyclables must be empty, clean and dry (no food residue).

Download the MUA's recycling flyer:

[http://mcmua.com/docs/Single\\_streamFlyer Residential lettersized.pdf](http://mcmua.com/docs/Single_streamFlyer_Residential_lettersized.pdf)

Earlier this year, the MUA released updated guidelines for the proper preparation of plastics for those municipalities participating in the MUA's single-stream curbside recycling collection program.

The revised plastics acceptability guidelines now limits plastic recycling collection to only bottles/containers coded #1, #2 & #5.

Due to strict requirements for collecting only acceptable materials in the recycling stream, the MUA will leave those recycling set-outs with unacceptable items in the recycling containers at the curb.

Residents will have to correct the issues and wait until the next scheduled collection day to put their acceptable recyclables for curbside collection.

The main goal is to avoid rejected loads at the local recycling facility which first separates the single-stream recyclables into the individual materials that make up the recycling stream.

Cleaner loads result in less cost while rejected loads due to contamination result in a greater cost for all involved. **When in doubt, throw it out** and keep the acceptable recyclables clean, empty and dry!

Please stop by the Morris County Library during the month of April to see a recycling display that features acceptable recyclables and those items that are not acceptable in the recycling stream.

For additional information, and to obtain the single-stream recycling flyer, please visit [www.MCMUA.com](http://www.MCMUA.com).

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# MORRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

## SINGLE-STREAM all-in-one RECYCLING

The Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority "all-in-one," single-stream recycling collection program allows cans, bottles, cardboard and all other paper to be mixed together for recycling. All of these items can go into one recycling container.

Recycle office paper, file folders, junk mail, envelopes, flyers, newspapers and inserts, magazines, catalogs, paperbacks and phone books, wrapping paper, paper bags, tissue and cookie boxes, paper towel and toilet tissue cores, frozen food boxes, cartons and boxes used for milk, juice, soup, broth, etc., clean pizza boxes, 6-pack and 12-pack cartons from soda, clean paper ice cream containers. Corrugated cardboard must be flattened. (\*For shredded paper preparation, see below.)

Recycle plastic containers (bottles and non-bottles) coded:



Plastic caps and lids larger than 3" in diameter are acceptable. The smallest acceptable plastic container is an 8-ounce yogurt cup. Containers must be empty.

Recycle aluminum and steel (tin) cans, loose metal jar lids, steel bottle caps, clean aluminum foil, pie plates and trays.

Recycle glass bottles and jars with caps and lids removed. Recycle loose metal caps and lids. Bottles and jars must be empty.

### IMPORTANT

\*Recycling containers must not exceed 50 pounds. 32-gallon containers are recommended.

\*Only use plastic bags for shredded paper. All other material must be loose in a container, not in a bag.

\*Do not tie the cardboard or newspapers, put in reusable containers loose, or stack folded boxes into one box.

\*Label your recycling containers with free decals from your town or the MCMUA.

\*If necessary, use multiple recycling containers. Containers must have handles. Lids are strongly recommended.

Do not recycle plastics coded



All items must be empty, dry, and free of food residue.

- No liquids
- No cups
- No plastic items smaller than 8-ounce yogurt cups; for example, do not recycle small plastic caps or pill bottles
- No VHS/VCR tapes
- No hangers
- No hardcover books
- No flower pots or trays
- No plant material or food waste
- No window panes, mirrors, glass vases, ceramics, or Pyrex® dishware
- No glass, plastics or metal other than what is listed
- No electronic waste (batteries, cell phones, computers, etc.)
- No paint, pesticides, oil and cleaners
- No waxed paper
- No waxed cardboard
- No Styrofoam™ or paper to-go containers
- No stickers or address label sheet waste
- No spray pumps or nozzles
- No straws
- No motor oil, gas or anti-freeze containers
- No clothing, textiles, or shoes
- No insulated box liners
- No hoses

- No diapers
- No garbage
- Do not tie newspapers or cardboard
- \*No loose shredded paper
- No plastic bags other than for shredded paper

\*Shredded paper must be in clear plastic bags. Nothing else should be in a plastic bag except for shredded paper. Shred only confidential information.



www.mcmua.com