



Bureau of Solid Waste

Re♥News

February 2014 | Vol. 3 Issue 2

Q&A with Recycle Rob

Dear Recycle Rob,

Everybody loves me so I anticipate getting lots of gifts for Valentine's Day. I want to be green too so I'm wondering what should I do with the shrink wrap? Can I recycle it?

- Heather Heart

Dear Heather,

It's good to know you are a magnet for the emotionally overcompensated. Sadly, all the shrink wrap from the many candies, flowers and fruit baskets you will receive are not accepted in our curbside recycling program.

While practically all material is recyclable in some form, recycling some materials is neither practical and/or profitable.

In the future, this may be true for shrink wrap but for now it isn't.

Recycle Rob

From Your Recycling Coordinator...

February means Valentine's Day is coming and how better to show your love of recycling than by following some simple tips for have a "green" Valentine's Day.

- Use a vintage valentine in a style your friend appreciates.
- Cut up an old valentine and trim it with a heart shaped doilies
- Have kids draw one for Mom or Dad
- Send an E greeting
- Consider choosing cards made of recycled materials, or even buying them from a charity that benefits the environment.
- Have a talent for baking, crocheting, knitting, artwork. stained glass or wood crafts? Make it!
- Choose or make gifts that are practical and consist of environmentally friendly materials.
- Make a gift basket tailored to the recipient. Homemade cookie mix and baking pan, A lovely plant and garden tools, Vintage candlestick and candles. Be creative!
- Give the gift of an heirloom! Pass it on! Put a treat inside!
- Use recycled or recyclable materials for packaging gifts; reuse a nice tin, box or gift bag
- Select uncoated giftwrap that can be recycled.
- Recycle all decorations
- Donate or freecycle unwanted items
- Regift if it's appropriate

Presidents' Day February 17th

This is not a regular trash & recycling collection day;
Citizens' Convenience Centers are closed;
no Mechanical Street Sweeping.



Leaf Pick Up & Yard Waste Tips

- Do not put your bagged yard waste in the gutter or public right-of-way.
- The best way to take care of leaves is to compost them or go over them with a mulching mower.
- We will pick up 5 bags of leaves on your trash collection day. Put them where you set out your trash.
- A locked gate or pet will keep us from getting your yard waste; please confine your pets on collection day.
- We do not take tree branches larger than 4 inches in diameter or longer than 3 feet.
- You can also take your yard waste to any Citizen Drop-off center.



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BUREAU OF SOLID WASTE
RECYCLING



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Please don't use plastic bags!

You can use anything as a container for your recyclables **except** plastic bags. Many grocery stores and supermarkets will recycle plastic bags.



Acceptable and Unacceptable Recycling Materials

Acceptable Recycling Material:

- Aerosol Cans (empty)
- Aluminum: cans, beverage and food containers, foil (clean), and pie pans
- Bottles: narrow-neck bottles
- Cartons (waxed): used for a liquid such as juices, milk or soups
- Glass containers such as bottles and jars (brown, clear or green)
- Metal: beverage and food containers
- Plastic: bottles and jars
- Prescription bottles, including caps
- Steel: beverage containers and food
- Tin: cans and foil



Rigid Plastics

(to be taken to the citizen drop-off centers)

Rigid plastics include milk/soda crates, buckets, laundry baskets, children's toys, etc.

Unacceptable Recycling Material Examples:

- Cookware and plates (plastic)
- Containers of toxic substances -e.g., cans motor oil, pesticides, etc.
- Contaminated paper products -e.g., napkins, paper towels, and tissue
- Dry cleaning bags
- Glass (window and mirror)
- Waxed paper



Increased Polystyrene Recycling

Polystyrene (Styrofoam) recycling was first available at the Northwest Citizens Convenience Center at 2840 Sisson Street in 2012 and the first year of the program saw 5,000 pounds of Styrofoam recycled. **This past year, Baltimore residents recycled an additional 3,000 pounds of recycling for a total of 8,000 pounds of Styrofoam - a 60% increase!**

Foam Polystyrene, commonly referred to as "Styrofoam" a registered trademark of the Dow Chemical Company, is a recyclable product that is used in foam cups, foam plates and egg cartons, as well as foam protective packaging typically used to protect consumer goods and electronics. Foam Polystyrene is easily identifiable as these products are marked with a "6" encased in a recycling symbol.

Baltimore City partnered with the Dart Container Corporation, a leading manufacturer of polystyrene foam foodservice products, to bring Styrofoam Recycling to Baltimore. Styrofoam products cannot be put out with your curbside recyclables.

All types of Styrofoam can be brought to the Sisson Street location and placed in our blue container. Make sure they are clean and have the #6 symbol on it; rinse cups/containers and no straws, lids, tap or stickers

Packing peanuts are not acceptable since they are all not made from polystyrene. Many are made of corn starch and the difference is not visibly noticeable therefore they would impinge the recycling process.



Re minders

Presidents' Day, Monday, February 17, is not a regularly scheduled trash and recycling collection day. Citizens' Convenience Centers are closed & no Mechanical Street Sweeping will take place.

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