

# Recyclers' Corner



March 2011 Issue

[Editor's Note: Recyclers' Corner is a periodic news column sponsored by Denver Recycles, a program of Denver Public Works/Solid Waste Management. It includes updates on seasonal and ongoing activities related to the City and County of Denver's recycling programs. Editors are invited to publish all or part of the column; however, we request that you run major edits by our staff to ensure accuracy of the information. Questions may be directed to Tom Strickland at Denver Recycles, 303-446-3557.]

## There's Always Room to Recycle More!



On average, Denver Recycles estimates that 30% or more of what goes in your household trash could have easily been recycled. Even residents that have been recycling for years still might be missing opportunities to recycle even more. That's because many people just recycle in the kitchen, but upon closer examination, you'll learn that recyclables can be found throughout the home.

**Make recycling a habit in every room and see just how little trash you'll make.**

**1. GO "OSCAR THE GROUCH" - LOOK INSIDE YOUR TRASH CANS:** Okay this may sound a little gross, but this is one of the quickest ways to discover what you're tossing in the trash that could have been recycled. Here are some items that maybe you didn't think were recyclable but are:

- Gift boxes and wrapping paper
- Empty aerosol cans and paper towel rolls
- Plastic "clam-shell" containers like those used for strawberries and bakery goods
- Glass soy sauce and salsa bottles and jars
- Empty plastic spray bottles and sanitary wipe tubs

**2. BACK TO RECYCLING BASICS - PAPER:** We have yet to reach that paperless age we were promised decades ago, so in until we do, be sure to put these recycling basics in your purple cart:

- School notes, old homework, coloring pages and even artwork
- Stationary, note pads and Post-It® notes
- File folders and index cards
- Newspapers, magazines and phone books

**3. CHECK OUT MATERIALS COMING IN YOUR MAIL:** Sometimes there seems to be a never ending stream of materials arriving in your mailbox or delivered to your home. Pick a spot close to your recycling bin to go through your mail so that recycling these items will be that much easier:

- Junk mail including glossy ads and window envelopes
- Take-out menus, flyers, brochures and catalogs
- Bills, letters, postcards and greeting cards
- Shipping and mailing boxes



**4. YOUR KITCHEN IS COOKING WITH RECYCLABLES:** Leftovers are not only food, but also their containers. You'll feel a lot less guilty about eating those cookies if you recycle the box that they came in as well as these items:

- Pizza boxes and “to-go” plastic drinking cups (be sure to remove food residue)
- Plastic “to go” clam shells (no Styrofoam please)
- Paper egg cartons and frozen food boxes
- Aluminum foil and plastic trays used for microwave dinners
- Soup cans and pet food cans
- Ketchup, mustard, peanut butter and mayonnaise bottles and jars
- Yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese and butter tubs
- Cereal, cookie and cracker boxes

**5. LAST BUT NOT LEAST:** There is always plenty that can be recycled from the laundry room and bathroom.

- Liquid detergent and bleach bottles
- Powdered soap and fabric softener boxes
- Shampoo, conditioner and mouthwash bottles
- Liquid soap bottles and paper soap boxes
- Toilet paper tubes and paperboard tissue boxes
- Toothpaste boxes and medicine boxes

**Make sure your recyclables don’t end up in the trash. And,** if you find that your improved efforts result in you having more recyclables than your purple cart will hold, then simply contact Denver Recycles to find out how you can get a larger recycling cart. For more information about Denver Recycles programs call **311** or visit us online at **DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles**.

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## Electronics Recycling Event on Feb. 25th

Maybe you upgraded to a new television this year to watch the Super Bowl or you’re just tired of that old computer taking up storage space in your home? Not sure what to do with these items, but you would like to be environmentally responsible and recycle them?

Well, bring those old electronic devices to the **Eco-rally Electronics Recycling Collection Event on Saturday, February 25, 2012.**

Electronics recycling services will be offered at a significantly reduced price of \$5 per vehicle (limit of 2 "screens" per vehicle, see below for more details). Please note: Event Participation is by Appointment Only!

How to register to participate for this event:

1. Go to **DenverGov.org/EcoRally**
2. Choose your appointment time slot and register.
3. Show up on Feb. 25th at your scheduled appointment time with your electronic items.

- **LOCATION:** Metech Recycling at 500 W. 53rd Place in Denver (exit off I-25 to 58th Ave.).
- **APPOINTMENT TIMES:** 10 AM to 2 PM.



- **FEE:** \$5 per vehicle, cash or check only. Limit of 2 “screens” (televisions, monitors and/or laptops) per vehicle. Additional screens will cost an additional fee of \$5 per screen. No limits on other non-screen electronics. This event is open to all (no commercial or business recycling).
- **ITEMS ACCEPTED:** Televisions, monitors, CPUs, laptops, printers, scanners, faxes, keyboards, mice, stereos, external hard drives and storage devices, cellular phones, telephones, DVRs, VCRs, digital cameras, video recorders, MP3 players, and some small appliances such as microwaves.
- **ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:** Air conditioners, large appliances, vacuum cleaners, car batteries or household batteries (rechargeable batteries okay).

The Eco-rally is an electronics recycling education initiative in partnership with Comcast Cares Day, the City and County of Denver and local consumers to address the serious environmental concern of TVs and electronics in landfills. Over 31,000 pounds of electronic materials were collected and recycled at the February 2011 Eco-rally.

As residents are increasingly upgrading their televisions, computers and other electronics, they've put their older technology in storage or the trash. It is important to know that electronic waste is potentially toxic and it can leach dangerous chemicals into our groundwater and pollute our air. Additionally, by recycling electronics we can reduce the need to extract the planet's natural resources to make more electronics components. Comcast is proud that they were the first cable company to host an electronics recycling event.

This event is sponsored by the City of Denver Public Works, Denver Recycles, Comcast and Metech Recycling.

For more information about this event or other Denver Recycles programs visit **[Denvergov.org/DenverRecycles](http://Denvergov.org/DenverRecycles)** or call 311.

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