

Single Stream: Frequently Asked Questions

Here are some common questions we've been asked about the new Single Stream Recycling service. If you do not find an answer to your question, please [Contact Us](#).



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Why Single Stream?

Single Stream Recycling allows City of Torrington residents with curbside trash/recycle service to mix recyclable paper, plastic, aluminum cans and glass in one bin. This method of curbside recycling is more convenient for residents because it requires no sorting of items. Besides that, it has other advantages:

- Reduced collection costs because collection can be automated, and collection routes can be serviced more efficiently.
- Worker injuries decrease because single stream means switching from bins to cart-based collection (trucks with automated lifts).
- More paper grades can be collected, including food packaging (boxboard), junk mail, and mixed residential paper.
- Single Stream Recycling has been shown to increase recycle tons collected by as much as 40 percent within a year of startup.

When does Single Stream Recycling start?

Single Stream Recycling will begin May 18, 2009. New recycling carts will be delivered to all Torrington Residents with curbside trash/recycle service during May and June 2009. Residents should begin using the Single Stream recycling cart as soon as received after May 18th.

What do I have to do?

No action is required except to watch for delivery of the Single Stream Recycle Cart. Information, including a collection week calendar, will be included with the cart when it is delivered. Residents should place their recycling cart at the curb every other week with their garbage carts on their usual pickup day. Until residents receive their new recycling cart, they should continue using their small blue recycle bin.

How is this better than my old way of recycling?

Simply put, the Single Stream method requires no sorting of recyclables on the part of our residents – it's a method that allows residents to put all of their household recycling into one cart for easy and convenient collection.

How do I recycle in the meantime?

Until you receive the Single Stream Recycling Cart, just continue recycling as you have been using your small blue bin, following our current Recycling Guidelines.

Will my recycling pickup schedule change?

Yes. Instead of your recycling being collected every week on your scheduled garbage pickup day, recycling will be collected every other week on your scheduled day.

How do I find out what week my recycle collection is?

All trash collection routes have been divided into two weekly recycle routes (Week A and Week B) for every other week collection. A collection calendar with your collection week highlighted will be left with the recycle cart when delivered. A complete street listing and recycle calendar is also available on our website.

What items go in the cart?

The new Single Stream Recycling service will allow you to recycle the following types of items:

- Paper (newspaper, junk mail), magazines, catalogs, envelopes)
- Clean corrugated cardboard and boxboard (food box packaging)
- Paper egg cartons
- Paper bags
- Office and school papers
- Empty glass jars and bottles – Discard Caps & Lids
- Aluminum cans and clean foil
- Empty tin and steel aerosol cans – Discard Caps & Lids
- All plastic containers labeled #1 through #7 – Discard all Caps & Lids

What items cannot go in the cart?

- No garbage
- No plastic bags
- No caps, lids, spray nozzles or trigger sprayers
- No food waste
- No food tainted items (used paper plates, towels or napkins)
- No polystyrene or Styrofoam
- No motor oil bottles
- No hazardous chemical containers
- No plastic toys or sporting goods
- No electronics or batteries
- No compact discs or DVDs
- No foam egg cartons
- No ice cream cartons
- No light bulbs
- No hangers
- No yard waste or garden tools
- No pots and pans
- No phone books
- No pizza boxes
- No mirrors or window glass

I live in a Condo with dumpster service. Will my recycle collection change?

No. All residential condominium associations currently receiving dumpster service will continue receiving weekly recycle service using existing 95-gallon carts.

How big is the recycling cart?

Your new cart will be the 95-gallon size cart. It will take up just a little more floor space than our small blue bin but will hold five times as much recyclables.

Can I continue using the small blue bin?

No. Residents are welcome to keep the small bin for other household uses, but once you receive the Single Stream Recycling cart, USA Hauling & Recycling will only pick-up recycling put out at the curb in the Single Stream Recycling carts. If residents want to dispose of their old blue bin, they may place it in the trash cart for regular trash collection.

What do I do with extra recycling or if I miss my pickup day?

Only recyclables inside the Single Stream Recycling cart can be collected. Any recyclable placed outside of the cart will be left behind. Because the cart is larger than the old blue bins, this probably won't happen often. If you do have extra recyclables or just missed your pickup day and cannot wait to the next collection, you can bring recyclables to one of our drop off sites at the following locations:

| RESIDENTIAL RECYCLABLE MATERIAL DROP OFF SITES | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| <u>Drop Off Site</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Please Call Prior to Drop Off</u> |
| City Hall | 140 Main St. | Closed During Renovations |
| Water Pollution Control Fac. | 252 Bogue Rd. | (860) 485-9167 |
| Fire Department | 111 Water St. | (860) 489-2257 |
| N. End Fire Dept. | 899 Main St. | (860) 489-2265 |

What if my recycle cart gets damaged or stolen?

If the collection truck causes the damage or a result of normal wear, the Contractor will replace the cart at no charge to you. Damage resulting from negligence or abuse by the resident will be the responsibility of the resident. All reports of damage or theft will be investigated and should be reported to the Police Department and Public Works Department. Upon verification, stolen carts will be replaced by the City at no charge to the resident.

If I move, do I take the cart with me?

The carts are being distributed and maintained by USA Hauling & Recycling and will be the property of the City of Torrington. Each cart is assigned to each street address by means of a unique serial number. If you move, please leave the cart at your home.

Extra carts were left at my multifamily house even though I do not rent out any of the units. What do I do with the extra carts?

All carts were distributed based on data on file with the Assessor's Department. If you do not need the additional carts please call USA Hauling & Recycling at (860) 379-1662 and the extra carts will be picked up. A cart will be returned to you should you need it in the future. Any cart left curbside 48 hours after delivery will be removed by USA Hauling & Recycling.

Who can I contact if I have more questions about Single Stream?

If you did not find an answer to your question here, please call USA Hauling & Recycling at (860) 379-1662 or give us a call at 860-489-2232. You can also visit us USA Hauling & Recycling at:

- City of Torrington: [City of Torrington, CT](#)
- USA Hauling & Recycling: [USA Hauling & Recycling](#)