

A-Z List of Recycling Opportunities

Answers to Questions about What Can and Cannot be Recycling in Chicago's Blue Cart and Drop-off Center Program

Material	Accepted in Blue Cart or Drop-off*	Alternative Option	Mail or Drop Off	Address	Phone	Website	Details/Restrictions
A							
Aerosol cans	Yes						
Aluminum	Yes						Accepted aluminum includes cans, clean tin foil, pie tins.
B							
Baby bottles	No	Salvation Army	Drop Off	multiple		www.salvationarmy.com	
		Goodwill	Drop Off	multiple		www.goodwill.com	
Batteries	No	Walgreens Photo Counter	Drop Off	multiple		www.walgreens.com	
		Chicago Public Library	Drop Off	multiple		www.chipublib.org	
Batteries (lead acid)	No	Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility	Drop Off	1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642		www.cityofchicago.org/Environment	Hours: Tu 7-noon; Th 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am - 3 pm
Bicycles	No	Working Bikes Cooperative	Drop Off	2434 S. Western Ave. Chicago IL 60608	773-847-5440	www.workingbikes.org	Hours: Mon-Sat noon-5pm
Books (paperback)	Yes						
Books (hard cover)	No	Salvation Army	Drop Off				
		Goodwill	Drop Off	multiple		www.goodwill.com	
Brown Paper Bags	Yes						
Building Materials	No	The ReBuilding Exchange	Drop Off	3335 W. 47th St., Chicago IL 60632	773-847-3761	http://delta-institute.org/rebuildingexchange/location.php	Email info@rebuildingexchange.org to see if they'll accept your materials
C							
Candy wrappers	No	TerraCycle	Mail			www.terracycle.com	Must join a "brigade" to get mailing details
Car batteries	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Earth911.com		www.earth911.com	Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you
Cardboard	Yes						Please flatten boxes
Carpet (nylon)	No	Carpet Recovery	Drop Off			www.carpetrecovery.org	
CDs	No	Multiple	Drop Off and Mail	Earth911.com		www.earth911.com	
Cell phones	No	Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility	Drop Off	1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642		www.cityofchicago.org/Environment	Hours: Tu 7-noon; Th 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am - 3 pm
	No	Multiple	Mail			www.earth911.com	Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you
Compact Florescent Lightbulbs (CFLs)	No	Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility	Drop Off	1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642		www.cityofchicago.org/Environment	Hours: Tu 7-noon; Th 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am - 3 pm
		Home Depot	Drop Off	multiple		www.homedepot.com	
		Ikea	Drop Off	multiple		www.ikea.com	
		True Value	Drop Off	multiple		www.truevalue.com	
Christmas/string lights	No	Multiple		Earth911.com		www.earth911.com	Search for "string lights"
Corks	No						
		Broadway Cellars	Drop Off	5900 N. Broadway		www.wholefoods.com	To find the nearest location
		Whole Foods	Drop Off	multiple			
D							
Diapers (cloth)	No						Consider selling on Craigslist or FreeCycle
Diapers (disposable)	No						Disposal diapers should be thrown away
Denim	No						
		Salvation Army	Drop Off	multiple		www.salvationarmy.com	
		Goodwill	Drop Off	multiple		www.goodwill.com	
DVDs	No	Multiple	Mail	Earth911.com		www.earth911.com	Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you
E							
Envelopes (including plastic windows)	Yes						
Envelopes (Tyvek, FedEx, etc.)	No	Multiple	Drop Off and Mail	Earth911.com		www.earth911.com	Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you
Eyeglasses	No	Multiple	Drop Off and Mail	Earth911.com		www.earth911.com	Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you
F							
Food containers	Yes						Accepted plastics include #1-5, 7 (not #6)
Furniture	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Goodwill		www.goodwill.com	
		Multiple	Drop Off	Salvation Army		www.salvationarmy.com	
G							
Gift cards, hotel keys	No	Earthworks System	Mail			www.earthworkssystem.com	
Glass bottles and jars	Yes						Please remove lids from glass bottles and jars before recycling
Glasses (drinkware)	No	Salvation Army	Drop Off	multiple		www.salvationarmy.com	Broken glasses (drinkware) should be thrown away
		Goodwill	Drop Off	multiple		www.goodwill.com	
Glasses (eyeware)	No	Multiple	Drop Off and Mail	Earth911.com		www.earth911.com	Search Earth911 to find donation centers for eyeglasses
Golf balls	No	Dixon Golf	Drop Off	Elmhurts Park District, 225 Prospect Ave. Elmhurst IL 60126	630-993-8933	www.dixongolf.com	

Grass	No						Compost yard waste, like grass clippings
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H	Accepted in Blue Cart or Drop-off*	Alternative Option	Mail or Drop Off	Address	Phone	Website	Details/Restrictions
Hangers	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Earth911.com		www.earth911.com	Many dry cleaners only accept hangers from their store, check before dropping off
I							
Ipods	No	Multiple	Drop Off and Mail	Earth911.com		www.earth911.com	Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you
J							
Junk mail	Yes						
K							
Keys	No	Keys for Kindness	Mail	PO Box 201, Pearl River NY, 10965		www.keysforkindness.com	
Kitty litter	No						Kitty litter should be thrown away
L							
Linens	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Goodwill		www.goodwill.com	
		Multiple	Drop Off	Salvation Army		www.salvationarmy.com	
M							
Magazines & catalogs	Yes						
Make-up containers	No	Origins	Drop Off	111 N. State St, Chicago IL	312-781-3010	www.origins.com	
		Origins	Drop Off	845 N. Michigan Ave.	312-335-7911	www.origins.com	
Mattress and box spring	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Goodwill		www.goodwill.com	
		Multiple	Drop Off	Salvation Army		www.salvationarmy.com	
Medicine	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Chicago Police Area Headquarters			Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
				5101 S. Wentworth Ave., Chicago IL 60609			Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
				727 E. 111th St., Chicago IL 60628			Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
				2452 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago IL 60618			Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
				3151 W. Harrison St., Chicago IL 60612			Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
				5555 W. Grand Ave., Chicago IL 60639			Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
		Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility	Drop Off	1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642		www.cityofchicago.org?Environment	Hours: Tu 7-noon; Th 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am - 3 pm
Motor oil	No	Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility	Drop Off	1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642		www.cityofchicago.org?Environment	Hours: Tu 7-noon; Th 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am - 3 pm
MP3 players	No	Multiple	Drop Off and Mail	Earth911.com		www.earth911.com	Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you
N							
Newspapers	Yes						
Newspaper sleeves	No	Multiple	Drop Off				Plastic bags, including newspaper sleeves, should be brought to your grocery store or pharmacy for recycling
Notebooks	Yes						If possible, remove metal spiral binding
O							
Office paper	Yes						
P							
Paint (oil based only)	No	Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility	Drop Off	1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642		www.cityofchicago.org?Environment	Hours: Tu 7-noon; Th 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am - 3 pm
Paint (latex)	No						Remaining paint should be thrown away in garbage, and the metal container put in a Blue Cart or drop-off center
Paper towels (used)	No						Used paper towels should be thrown away
Paper towel rolls	Yes						
Pens and pencils	No						Broken or old pens and pencils should be thrown away
Phone books	Yes						
Phones (including cordless)	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Goodwill		www.goodwill.com	Donate only working phones. Broken phones should be thrown away.
		Multiple	Drop Off	Salvation Army		www.salvationarmy.com	Donate only working phones. Broken phones should be thrown away.
Plastics #1-5, 7	Yes						
Plastic #6 or unnumbered	No						#6 plastics and unnumbered plastics should be thrown away.
Plastic storage bags and plastic wrap	No						Plastic storage bags and wrap should be thrown away after use
Pots and pans	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Goodwill		www.goodwill.com	
		Multiple	Drop Off	Salvation Army		www.salvationarmy.com	
Q							
Qtips	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Goodwill		www.goodwill.com	Qtips and other health products should be thrown away after use.
R							
Rugs	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Salvation Army		www.salvationarmy.com	

S	Accepted in Blue Cart or Drop-off*	Alternative Option	Mail or Drop Off	Address	Phone	Website	Details/Restrictions
Sanitary products	No						Sanitary products, like wipes, feminine products, diapers and incontinence pads, facial and toilet tissue, should be thrown away after use.
Shoes	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Goodwill		www.goodwill.com	
		Multiple	Drop Off	Salvation Army		www.salvationarmy.com	
Shopping bags (paper)	Yes						
Shopping bags (plastic)	No	Multiple	Drop Off				All Chicago grocery stores are required to accept plastic shopping bags for recycling. Bags from other stores are also accepted.
Silverware (metal)	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Goodwill		www.goodwill.com	
		Multiple	Drop Off	Salvation Army		www.salvationarmy.com	
Silverware (plastic)	No						Plastic silverware can be rinsed and reused, or thrown away after use
Snackbag liners	No						Plastic snackbag liners should be thrown away
Spray paint (empty)	Yes						
Spray paint (not empty)	No						Consider donating unused spray paint to a school or local art program
Steel cans	Yes						
T							
Tennis balls	No	Rebounces	Mail			www.rebounces.com	
Tires	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Earth911.com		www.earth911.com	Some locations may charge per tire -call before making the trip
Toilet paper (used)	No						Used toilet paper should be thrown away
Toilet paper roll	Yes						
	No	Preserve Products	Mail			www.preserveproducts.com	Purchase Preserve toothbrushes and mail back later. The handles are made from recycled yogurt containers and made into new products
Toys	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Goodwill		www.goodwill.com	
		Multiple	Drop Off	Salvation Army		www.salvationarmy.com	
Televisions**	No	Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility	Drop Off	1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642			Hours: Tuesday 7am-noon; Thursdays 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am-3pm
U							
Umbrellas	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Goodwill		www.goodwill.com	Working umbrellas only
		Multiple	Drop Off	Salvation Army		www.salvationarmy.com	Working umbrellas only
V							
Video tapes	No	Multiple	Drop Off and Mail	Earth911.com		www.earth911.com	Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you
Vehicles	No	Multiple	Drop off	Earth911.com		www.earth911.com	Working vehicles can be donated
Waterbottles (reusable)	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Goodwill		www.goodwill.com	
		Multiple	Drop Off	Salvation Army		www.salvationarmy.com	
Wipes and sponges	No						Wipes and sponges should be thrown away after use
Wrapping paper	Yes						Be sure to remove bows, tags, and ribbon
Z							
Zippered bags	No						Zippered bags can be reused and thrown away
Zippers	No						Zippers should be thrown away

*Recycling Drop-off Center Locations	
Caldwell Woods Forest Preserve	6358 W Devon Ave.
Far North Side	6441 N Ravenswood Ave.
Chevailier Woods Forest Preserve	5530 N East River Rd.
Schiller Woods East Forest Preserve	8700 W Irving Park Rd.
Portage Park Neighborhood	4243 N. Neenah Ave.
17th District Police Station	4649 N Pulaski Rd.
Horner Park	4201 N California Ave.
Ris Park	6241 W Wrightwood Ave.
Hermosa Community	4619 W Homer St.
Mozart Park	2036 N Avers Ave.
Notebaert Nature Museum	2430 N Cannon Dr.
Household Chemicals and Computer Recycling Facility	1150 N North Branch St.
Chicago Center for Green Technology	445 N Sacramento Blvd.
Columbus Park	400 S Golf Dr.
North Lawndale	1817 S Pulaski Rd.
Douglas Park	1359 S Thompson Dr.
Near South	1758 S Clark St.
City Facility Campus	1424 W Pershing Rd.
Gage Park	2411 W 55th St.
Sherman Park	1300 W Garfield Blvd.
Washington Park	5560 Russell Dr.
Marquette Park	6734 S Kedzie Ave.
Ogden Park	6500 S Racine Ave.
Auburn Gresham	7811 S Racine Ave.
Rainbow Park	3111 E 77th St.
Dan Ryan Woods Forest Preserve	2300 W 83rd St.
Calumet Park Beach	9801 S Avenue G
West Pullman	11615 S Indiana Ave.
William W. Powers Recreation Area	12949 S Avenue O
City Facility Campus	1633 W Medill Ave
West Loop	1519 W Warren Blvd.
City Service Yard	829 W 120th St.