CITY OF ALEXANDRIA VIRGINIA

T&ES

TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Resource Recovery Division

GUIDE TO SERVICES

2025



RECYCLING • YARD WASTE • ORGANICS
TRASH • COMPOSTING • BULK WASTE
HAZARDOUS WASTE • AND MORE

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ABOUT THE T&ES RESOURCE RECOVERY DIVISION

The City of Alexandria's Resource Recovery Division within the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES) works each day to maintain a livable, green, and thriving community.

You'll see team members running street sweepers or making mulch in the spring, and vacuuming leaves in the fall. Resource Recovery staff can be found collecting refuse, recycling, and yard waste from your home, and keeping public spaces clean and sanitary by emptying trash cans, collecting litter, and preventing illegal dumping.

Learn more about the Resource Recovery Division, and how you can help the City sustainably recover resources, by visiting **alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery**.



Flavio Goncalves

Division Chief, Resource Recovery

Message from the Division Chief

Thank you for taking the time to review the latest edition of the Resource Recovery Division's Guide to Services! Our team is dedicated to providing the City of Alexandria with essential services throughout the year, including solid waste and recycling collection, street cleaning, and other sustainability programs. We are excited to share an overview of how you can benefit from these services.

We truly appreciate your continued support and commitment to following the best practices outlined in this guide. Your efforts not only contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable Alexandria, but also help prioritize the safety of our Resource Recovery crews and contractors, who work tirelessly to ensure timely and efficient service delivery.

Together, we are working to meet the City's environmental goals while building a stronger, cleaner community.

Let's continue to build on these successes. By working together, we can make a meaningful difference in creating an even more sustainable Alexandria for tomorrow.

WEEKLY COLLECTION SERVICES



Who is eligible?

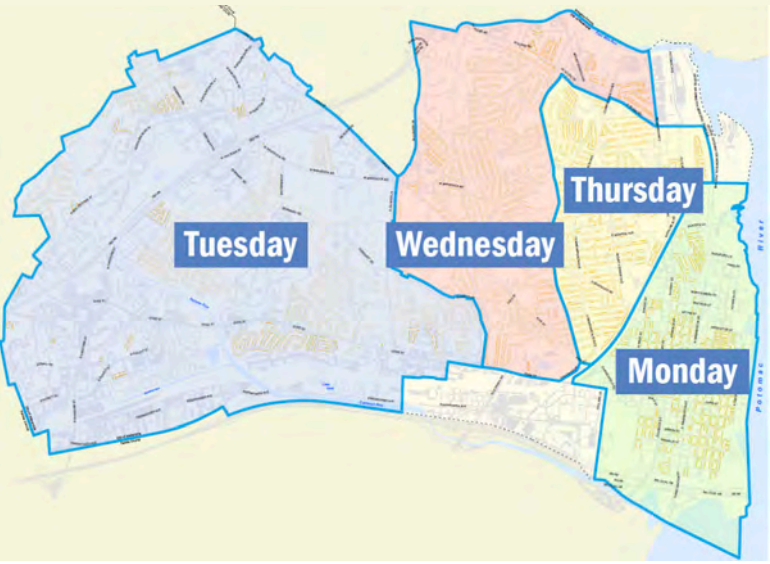
City of Alexandria residents living in detached, single-family homes, duplexes, and some townhouses with four or fewer units are required users of this fee-based service. Commercial properties and condominium complexes are not required users, but may participate at the City's discretion for a fee.

How do I prepare my waste for collection?

- Recyclables should be placed loosely in a blue City-provided recycling container ***NO PLASTIC BAGS***.
- Yard waste should be placed in a customer-provided reusable rigid container or paper yard waste bag (available for purchase at grocery and hardware stores).
- Trash should be bagged and placed in a City-provided container.

Where do I place my waste for collection?

For most residents, collection occurs in the public right-of-way in front of your house, but some residents receive alley collection. If you are unsure where to place your trash for collection, contact **Alex311**. Collection containers are to be removed from the public right-of-way by 7 p.m. on your service day.



Weekly Collection Map

When do I put out my waste for collection?

Each customer is assigned a collection day depending on their location in the City. Contact Alex311 or visit **alexandriava.gov/RefuseCollection** for your collection day. Trash, recycling, and yard waste must be set out no earlier than 5 p.m. the day prior and no later than 6 a.m. the morning of collection.

Collection crews operate between the hours of 7 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, except during the summer when collection starts at 6 a.m. Collection may slide a day during weeks with a holiday or due to unforeseen conditions.

You missed my collection!

Your preparation of material for collection is critical for us to recover resources, ensure safe collection, and leave the area neat and clean.

If your material is not collected by the end of the day, check for a tag that explains why the City could not collect.

Common problems include:

- Collection container, bag, or item is too heavy.
- Item is longer than 4 feet, such as carpet or lumber.
- Contains unacceptable items such as construction debris, dirt, brick, and stones (residents should call a private hauler to dispose of these items).
- Dangerous or messy liquids such as gasoline and undried paint found in the container.
- Trash mixed with recycling

No tag? Submit a "Missed Collection" ticket on **Alex311**.



Recycling cart sizes

While trash cart comes in one size (65 gallon), recycling carts come in three different sizes pictured above.

I need help taking out my trash or recycling

If you are physically unable to take your trash or recycling to the curb or alley, you may be eligible for an accommodation. If approved, staff will remove trash and recycling from a container that is staged outside your house at a convenient location for you.

Call **Alex311** to receive an application. This service is not available for yard waste.

RECYCLING

Recycling markets are constantly changing. As these markets change, so do sorting technologies, packaging designs, and the recyclability of materials.

The City regularly reviews and adjusts its recycling program to account for these changes and will work to keep you informed about what is and is not recyclable.

WHAT ABOUT RECYCLABLE ITEMS THAT DON'T BELONG IN THE BLUE CONTAINER?

Residents who receive City recycling collection service may schedule a pickup for bulky metal items. Metal household appliances and large metal items such as outdoor grills, exercise equipment, and chain-link fencing can be recycled per request (fees apply).

Contact **Alex311** to put in a service request.

What do I recycle in the blue container?



✓ **PAPER & CARDBOARD**
EMPTY & FLATTEN



✓ **PLASTIC CONTAINERS**
EMPTY & RINSE
LABELS OK



✓ **METAL CONTAINERS**
EMPTY & RINSE
LABELS OK



✗ **NO RECYCLING!**



NO BATTERIES & ELECTRONICS
NO CLOTHING OR TEXTILES
NO TANGLERS (CORDS, WIRES)
NO STRAWS/UTENSILS

NO FOAM
NO GLASS
NO PLASTIC BAGS
NO BULKY ITEMS

NO SHREDDED PAPER
NO PET WASTE/DIAPERS
NO MEDICAL WASTE/SHARPS
NO FOOD RESIDUE

RECYCLING GUIDELINES

1. Materials should be clean, empty and dry. Rinse if necessary. No food residue.
2. Put caps back on containers after emptying.
3. Items smaller than 3x3 inches will slip through the recycling equipment. No utensils or straws.
4. Empty and flatten cardboard. Remove air pillows, foam, or plastic wrap from the cardboard.
5. Plastic numbers (#1-7) do not determine recyclability. Rigid plastic containers with a neck made of #1 and #2 plastics are widely recyclable in the region.
6. Plastic cups, take out containers, and plastic food containers can be recycled **ONLY** if there is **no food residue** and the item is **thoroughly rinsed.**
7. Visit **alexandriava.gov/Recycling** for online recycling tools and the most up-to-date Yes/No list.

RECYCLE RIGHT ALEXANDRIA

NO PLASTIC BAGS

DO NOT BAG

Recyclables



Return plastic bags to retailers.

Find the nearest retailer:
plasticfilmrecycling.org



NO PLASTIC BAGS IN RECYCLING!

Plastic bags, wraps, and films of any color, size or shape are not accepted in City recycling bins. These materials clog recycling equipment resulting in safety hazards to employees and operational problems.

Recycling facilities will often reject recyclables if they are contained in a plastic garbage bag or include wraps and films of any kind. The City also pays a penalty when bags and wraps are present.

Plastic bags are often the number one contaminant found in the City's recycling stream — please help the City reduce contamination by keeping your recyclables loose!

PLASTIC BAG DROP-OFF

Plastic bags, wraps, and films can be recycled if they are clean, empty, and dropped off at participating grocery stores and retailers.

RECYCLING DROP-OFF CENTERS

Need to recycle right away? The City provides four public drop-off centers for all City residents and small businesses to use.

4251 Eisenhower Avenue

3224 Colvin Street

Jones Point Park (on the left at the end of South Royal Street heading south)

South Whiting Street (at the end of South Whiting Street, intersecting at Tower Court)

24 hours a day, seven days a week

Free

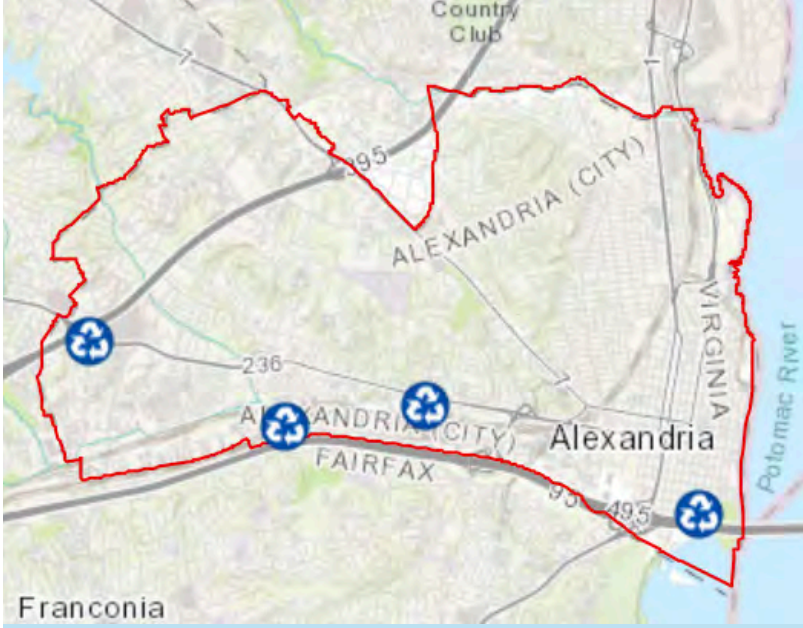
alexandriava.gov/go/2768

Accepted Materials:

- Mixed containers (aluminum cans, steel cans, plastic bottles, and jugs)
- Mixed paper
- Emptied and flattened cardboard (remove Styrofoam and plastic wrap)

Prohibited Materials:

- NO glass (Use purple bins co-located at Recycling Centers)
- NO Styrofoam or packing peanuts
- NO pots and pans
- NO plastic bags, wraps or films
- NO trash, furniture, bulk trash, construction waste, or yard waste **(NO illegal dumping)**



HELP US FIGHT ILLEGAL DUMPING



Illegal dumping limits the safe and orderly operation of recycling centers and poses environmental and public health risks.

The City of Alexandria is serious about combating this public nuisance to keep the community clean, healthy, and safe.

See any violations in progress? Report illegal dumping in the City by contacting **Alex311**.





NO GLASS IN BLUE RECYCLING BINS!

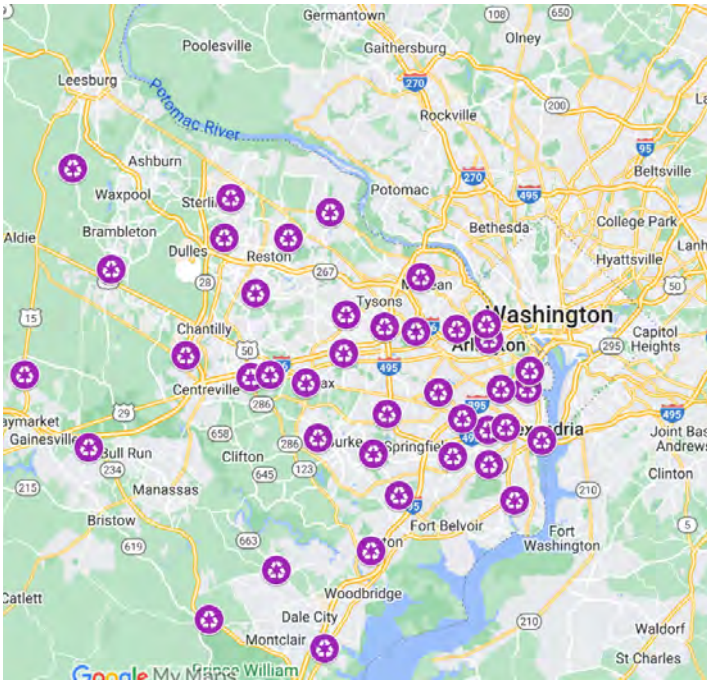
Glass is not accepted by the curbside recycling program.

Residents have two options:

1. Drop off glass at purple glass-only recycling bins located at both City Recycling Centers and additional locations throughout the region.

2. Place glass in curbside trash carts.

Glass dropped off at purple bins will be recycled into new glass bottles, fiberglass insulation, and materials used in local public works projects.



YES!



- **Empty & Rinse**
- **Labels - OK**
- **All Colors of Glass - OK**
- **Metal Caps & Lids - OK**

NO!

- **DO NOT** bag glass or wrap with plastic liners
- No plastic bags or plastic wrap (return to retail)
- No lamps or bulbs (use Household Hazardous Waste Center at 3224 Colvin St.)
- No ceramics, porcelain, mirrors, windows, Pyrex, or glass sheets
- No food or liquid (empty and rinse)

- 4251 Eisenhower Avenue
- 3224 Colvin Street
- Jones Point Park (on the left at the end of South Royal Street heading south)
- South Whiting Street (at the end of South Whiting Street, intersecting at Tower Court)
- Additional locations in Northern Virginia can be found at alexandriava.gov/go/2771

24 hours a day, seven days a week

Free

alexandriava.gov/go/2771



NEED RECYCLING CONTAINERS FOR YOUR SPECIAL EVENT?

The City of Alexandria Recycling Program has ClearStream recycling containers that can be loaned out for events in the City of Alexandria.

To review the full container loan agreement, and find full steps for planning an event with ClearStream containers, visit **alexandriava.gov/go/2723**.



RECYCLING AT SPECIAL EVENTS

Recycling is one of the easiest and cheapest ways to reduce the amount of trash at your event. Recycling can be set up in four easy steps:

1. *Decide to have recycling at your event and establish a coordinator, especially for larger events.*

2. *Plan and set up a collection system.*

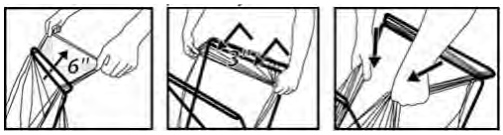
- What kind of trash and recycling containers will you use?
- How many trash and recycling containers will you use? (The rule of thumb is one recycling container for every trash can).
- Where will the trash and recycling containers be located? Trash and recycling containers should be next to one another in highly visible and easily accessible locations.
- Who will be responsible for emptying the trash and recycling containers? Who will dispose of the trash and recycling at the end of the event? (Hauler, individual, etc. For small events, the City's recycling drop-off locations are available).

3. *Promote and provide basic recycling education.*

- Announce at the beginning and throughout the event that recycling is available.
- Provide signs explaining what is recyclable at your event.
- Ensure trash and recycling containers are appropriately labeled.

4. *Monitor the trash and recycling containers for any contamination (trash in the recycling container or vice versa).*

- Have volunteers remind event participants about what is and is not recyclable and where recyclables go, especially for large events.





PUBLIC SPACE RECYCLING

Recycling containers are located in popular pedestrian areas, such as lower King Street and Mount Vernon Avenue, and in City parks.

What do I recycle in the public container?

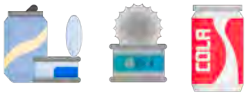
PAPER & CARDBOARD
EMPTY & FLATTEN



PLASTIC CONTAINERS
LABELS OK



METAL CONTAINERS
LABELS OK



Accepted Materials:

- Aluminum cans
- Plastic bottles
- Mixed paper (NO large cardboard)

NO RECYCLING!



Prohibited Materials:

- NO glass (use purple bins co-located at Recycling Centers or dispose of it in the trash)
- NO pet waste
- NO pots and pans
- NO plastic bags, wraps or films
- NO bulky waste
- NO food containers (e.g. to-go containers, cups, or trays)



NO POOP IN THE BLUE

Picking up and bagging pet waste is important to keep public spaces clean. Pet waste belongs in trash-only containers - make sure to keep blue recycling containers contamination free!

Putting pet waste in a recycling container ruins all recyclables inside and requires the City to sort all of the container's contents as trash.

Thank you for helping to keep streets, sidewalks, and parks clean and public recycling containers free of contaminants!

YARD WASTE



The City can make grass, leaves, brush, branches, and dead plants into useful products like organic compost and mulch. This resource, referred to as yard waste, is collected separately from household trash.

Place yard waste into sturdy and reusable containers or paper yard-waste bags (available for purchase at grocery and hardware stores) and put them next to your trash container. The City does not supply, maintain, or replace yard waste containers. Collection occurs on the same day as trash.

GRASS

BRUSHES & BRANCHES

DEAD PLANTS

LEAVES

ROCKS, SOIL

STUMPS, SOD

PET WASTE



CHRISTMAS TREES

Residents who receive City collection may place natural Christmas trees on the curb on regular refuse days in the month of January. The trees will be ground into pine mulch. Stands, tinsel, decorations, and lights MUST be removed.



SPRING LEAF & WOOD MULCH

For a limited time during spring and summer, free mulch is available on a first-come, first served basis from the City's mulch site (4251 Eisenhower Avenue).

You may also call **Alex311** or visit the website to schedule mulch delivery during the spring and early summer months. Delivery is $65 for each half-load and $130 for a full-load. Deliveries are scheduled Monday-Friday and cannot be scheduled for weekends or holidays.

BULKY YARD WASTE - BY REQUEST

Brush, branches, and logs that are too bulky or heavy to fit into a container can be collected curbside by request. Staff will collect up to two felled trees curbside (restrictions apply, see below).

Use **Alex311** to schedule a collection day.

PREPARATION

- Collection is available only for logs and branches less than 18 inches in diameter and less than 10 feet long. No tree stumps.
- Place brush curbside, not in the yard or alley. Stack large items parallel to the curb.
- Overhead clearance of 25 feet is required (look for power lines and tree limbs).
- Do not mix lumber or construction debris with brush.
- Do not place brush by parked cars; 10 feet of clearance is required.
- Do not stack brush against fixed objects such as poles, posts, fences, walls or buildings.
- Do not block sidewalks.

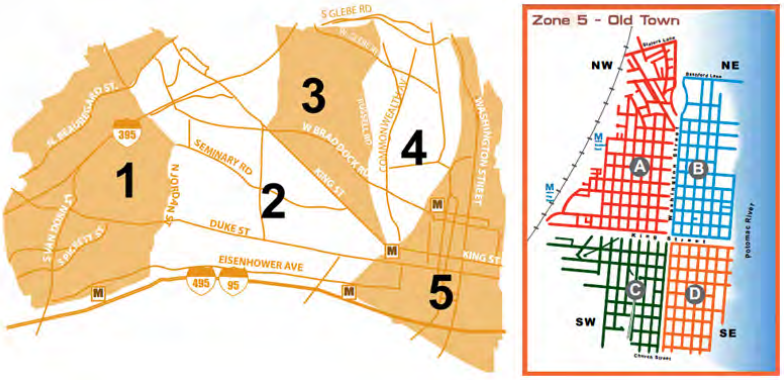
Contact **Alex311** to request a **"YARD WASTE ONLY"** label to identify your yard waste container.

alexandriava.gov/YardWaste





LEAF COLLECTION



Collection Zones Map

The annual curbside leaf collection program is a service provided to all residents receiving City residential refuse and recycling services. From late October through January, City crews operate leaf vacuum trucks and collect paper leaf bags. Alexandria is sectioned into five collection zones, each with a specific start date and three separate passes, weather permitting.

Residents can access the Residential Leaf Collection Viewer (an interactive map on the City's Leaf Collection website) to look up assigned leaf collection dates based on the home address.

Three Ways to Recycle Your Leaves

Residents who receive City trash and recycling collection services may recycle leaves in three ways:

1) LEAF VACUUMING

During leaf season, crews collect leaves raked to the front curb with a vacuum truck. City crews make three passes through each neighborhood zone, weather permitting. It takes crews several days to complete a pass in each zone.

How to Prepare

- Rake leaves out the day before your assigned collection date (an updated weekly schedule is posted on the City website and social media).
- Rake leaves into piles at the street curb. This enables crews to move quickly and efficiently.
- Remove stones, litter, branches, and other debris. These items can damage equipment and injure our workers.
- Avoid placing leaves in front of storm drains or water meter covers.
- Move parked cars off leaf piles.
- Do not rake leaves into alleys or service roads. Loose leaves are not collected from alleys.

2) LEAF BAG COLLECTION

During leaf collection season, the City provides biodegradable paper bags for leaves, available on a first-come, first serve basis, while supplies last. The bags are available at various City facilities for pick-up by residents and are not available for commercial use. Bags are collected at your collection point (where you set your trash, recycling, and yard waste out) on your regular trash collection day.



How to Prepare

- Place paper bags at your collection point, on your regular trash collection day. Only use paper bags. Leaves in plastic bags are considered refuse, and will be thrown away as trash at the Reworld Energy-from-Waste plant.

- Remove dirt, stones, litter and other debris from leaves before placing them in bags.

3) COMPOST LEAVES AT HOME

Composting at home is an easy way to take advantage of the environment's natural recycling process, which creates valuable organic supplements right in your own backyard. Visit **alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery** to learn more about grasscycling, backyard composting, and the City's farmers' market composting stations.



ORGANICS

NEW! Curbside Food Waste Composting

The City of Alexandria is thrilled to announce an exciting new way for you to make a big environmental impact right from your curb! Introducing the voluntary curbside food waste composting program - if you receive City trash and recycling services, you're eligible to sign up!

The City provides the supplies and covers 75% of the collection cost, making this program significantly more affordable than typical curbside composting in our area. Beginning July 1, 2025, residents receiving City trash and recycling collection can opt in for just **$5 per month** or **$55 per year**.

Get started turning everything from fruit and vegetable scraps to meat and bones into nutrient-rich compost instead of landfill waste. Just toss scraps into your dedicated bin!

To learn more about this service, please visit our website at: **alexandriava.gov/go/4289**



Collection days are determined by the contractor and can be found through the customer portal after registration.

$5 per month or $55 per year

alexandriava.gov/go/4289

As part of the program, participants receive...



Weekly curbside collection



A starter kit with a 7-gallon bin and 40 BPI compostable bags



A bag of complimentary compost each year

What can I compost curbside?

YES

- BPI Certified Compostable Wares
- Coffee Grounds and Filters
- Cooked and Fried Food
- Dairy
- Egg Shells
- Fruit and Vegetable Scraps
- Grains, Cereals, Bread, and Pasta
- Flowers and Houseplant Trimmings
- Loose Tea
- Meat and Bones
- Nuts and Seeds
- Paper Towels and Napkins
- Processed Food
- Rotten or Moldy Food
- Seafood

NO

- Animal Waste
- Batteries
- Chemicals
- Cigarette Butts
- Cosmetics
- Diapers
- Diseased Plants
- Electronics
- Inorganic Materials
- Kitty Litter
- Medicine/Medical Waste
- Paint
- Pesticides
- Plastics
- Produce Stickers
- Rubber Bands
- Soiled Bandages
- Toxics
- Treated Woods
- Twist Ties
- Used Tissues

FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING AT FARMERS' MARKETS



Food waste can be dropped-off at weekend farmers' markets for composting into a nutrient rich natural fertilizer for free. Staff is on-site to answer questions about composting and provide advice on how to reduce food waste.

COMPOST YES

- NUTS, BEANS, SEEDS (*including shells/hulls*)
- FRUIT & VEGETABLE SCRAPS
- COFFEE GROUNDS, FILTERS, TEA BAGS (*no foil or foil-backed products*)
- BREAD, PASTA, RICE, GRAINS, & CEREAL
- EGG SHELLS
- FLOWERS

COMPOST NO

- OIL
- PLASTIC BAGS
- MEAT, SEAFOOD, & BONES
- DAIRY
- NAPKINS, TISSUE
- PET WASTE

LOCATIONS

Del Ray Farmers' Market
Corner of East Oxford & Mount Vernon Avenues
Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Open Year Round

Old Town Farmers' Market
301 King Street, Market Square
Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Open Year Round

Four Mile Run Farmers' Market
4109 Mount Vernon Avenue
Sundays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Open Year Round

West End Farmers' Market
4800 Brenman Park Drive
Sundays, 8.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Seasonal Market - Check Website for Dates

Old Town North Farmers Market
901 North Royal Street
Sundays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Open Year Round

Southern Towers Farmers Market
4901 Seminary Rd
Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Open Year Round



SAVE THE FOOD

40% of all food in America is wasted.

Stopping food waste before it begins and donating food are the best practices before composting. Learn about food waste prevention, find a directory of where to donate food, and get additional tips by visiting alexandriava.gov/FoodWaste.

TRASH SERVICES

After separating recyclables, food waste, and yard waste, what remains is your household trash. The City of Alexandria collects trash from approximately 20,200 customers each week. The trash that we collect is processed into energy. Alexandria disposes of its trash at the ReWorld Alexandria/Arlington Waste-To-Energy Facility at 5301 Eisenhower Avenue.

This facility turns waste into energy by burning 975 tons of solid waste daily to produce 21 megawatts of energy, powering approximately 15,000 homes. The City follows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Waste Management Hierarchy of energy recovery following reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting.

TRASH PREPARATION

Your household trash bags should be put into a City provided trash container and placed curbside (or in an adjacent alley) on your designated trash day.

BULK TRASH - EVERY COLLECTION DAY

You can place bulky items next to your trash container on your collection day any time of year. Bulk metal items require a service request through **Alex311** (fees apply for appliances); otherwise, place large items out for pickup whenever you want, whether it's spring or not.

BY THE NUMBERS

21,000
approximate number of customers the City of Alexandria collects trash from each week.

10,000
tons of ferrous metal recovered from the plant for recycling in FY24

975
tons of waste to energy per day

21
megawatts of energy and power generated to approximately 15,000 homes.

TRASH NO





BUILDING MATERIALS, ROCKS & DIRT

Material from home construction projects and landscaping materials such as dirt, rock and stone are not accepted in the City's programs. Hauling and disposal services for shingles, brick, bathroom fixtures, drywall and framing lumber are commercially available.

Please consider donating reusable items such as light fixtures and kitchen cabinetry. Contact landscaping companies for the removal of dirt, rock and stone. Visit our website, **alexandriava.gov/RefuseCollection** for a list of other local solid waste facilities and link to the MWCOG's Builder's Recycling Guide.



TRASH DROP-OFF CENTER

The City's Waste-To-Energy Facility includes a residential drop-off available to all Alexandria residents. Residents may drop-off waste once per week. The total weight of trash, debris or metal must not exceed 500 lbs. per visit. Residents may be asked to provide proof of residency by photo identification.

Unacceptable items include:

- *Televisions*
- *Stumps*
- *Rocks*
- *Dirt or sand*
- *Pressurized cylinders or tanks*
- *Construction and building debris*
- *Hazardous waste*
- *Ammunition and explosives*
- *Regulated medical waste*
- *Radioactive or geological materials*



? Questions? Call ReWorld at 703.370.7722

5301 Eisenhower Ave.

Monday-Friday from 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 6 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

$ FREE

alexandriava.gov/RefuseCollection

ENVIRONMENTAL UPGRADES COMPLETE

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has issued final permits for the installation and operation of Low NOx (LN®) technology at the ReWorld Alexandria/ Arlington Waste-To-Energy Facility.

In 2022, ReWorld Alexandria Waste-to-Energy facility completed planned enhancements to its state-of-the-art pollution control technology. The goal is to further reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, thereby helping to protect the environment.

With installation of its proprietary Low NOx (LN) technology now complete, nitrogen oxide emissions have been reduced by nearly 50%. The effort was part of a multi-year project at the ReWorld Alexandria-Arlington Facility.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & ELECTRONICS

Some household products require special disposal to keep our community safe and our air and water clean. These products contain harmful chemicals and heavy metals. The City operates a staffed drop-off location open two days a week for these items.



3224 Colvin Street (just off Duke Street)

Monday: 7:30 am to 3:30 pm (except holidays)
Tuesday-Friday: CLOSED
Saturday: 7:30 am to 3:30 pm (except holidays)
Sunday: CLOSED

FREE

alexandriava.gov/go/2703

- **HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCTS**
- **HERBICIDES& GARDEN PRODUCTS**
- **ELECTRONIC WASTE**
- **PESTICIDES**
- **PAINTS, STAINS, & SOLVENTS**
- **MERCURY-CONTAINING ITEMS**
  Thermostats, thermometers, light bulbs
- **AUTOMOTIVE CHEMICALS**
- **PROPANE TANKS**

BATTERIES

Batteries are the leading cause of truck fires in the U.S. Do not place rechargeable batteries of any kind in the trash or recycling. Bring them to the HHW Center. Regular alkaline can go in trash.

- All Rechargeable (e.g. Li-Ion, Ni-MH, Ni-Cd, Ni-Zn)
- Single Use Lithium (e.g. button/coin cell, AA, AAA, 9V, C, D, CR123A, CR2)
- Lead Acid (automotive) & Sealed Lead Acid



HOW TO DISPOSE OF...

...LATEX PAINT?



Unlike oil-based paint, latex paint is not a hazardous waste and can be disposed of with regular trash. The challenge is getting it from your home to the Waste-to-Energy plant without it leaking from the trash truck. Prior to disposal thicken latex paint by adding paint absorbent, kitty litter or shredded newspaper, then replace the lid and seal the can in a plastic bag. Never pour paint down a sink or storm drain! For tips on reducing paint waste see, page 21.



...FOOD OILS, FATS, AND GREASE?

Small amounts of food oils, fats, and grease can be absorbed with paper towels and thrown away as regular trash. Modest amounts can be poured into a container with a screw-on lid and disposed as regular trash. For larger amounts, consider reaching out to a restaurant for permission to empty the oil into their used oil container. Never pour oils, fats, or greases down a sink or storm drain.

...PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE?



Help the City keep opioids out of the hands of those who might abuse them and to keep our precious drinking water clean from improper medicine disposals. Never flush medicine down a toilet or pour down a drain. You can drop-off any old or unwanted medicine year-round at:

- APD Headquarters (3600 Wheeler Avenue)
- Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray (2204 Mt. Vernon Avenue)
- Inova Alexandria Hospital (4320 Seminary Road)

...SHARPS AND NEEDLES?



Check with your doctor, clinic, or hospital to see about a needle or "sharps" disposal program at their office. Otherwise, place needles, syringes, lancets, and other contaminated sharps in any puncture-resistant, resealable, disposable household container (e.g. empty bleach bottle, laundry detergent bottle, or metal coffee can). Write on the container "SHARPS". Once your container is full of used needles, fill the container with one part bleach solution and ten parts of water. Allow solution to soak for 20 minutes, to sterilize your used sharps. Then, pour the solution into the sink and seal the cap with tape before placing the disposal container into the garbage. Dispose of the container in your regular trash bin.

...EXPLOSIVES AND AMMUNITION?



Fireworks and explosives should be taken to a nearby fire station. Ammunition should be taken to a police department. Please call their non-emergency number to arrange a drop-off. (703.746.4444).



BATTERIES

Did you know that improper disposal of rechargeable batteries is one of the leading causes of truck fires in the waste industry?

Do not throw away rechargeable batteries or single use lithum batteries in the recycling OR trash bins.

Help keep our workers safe by dropping off your rechargeable batteries (e.g. Li-Ion, Ni-Cd, Ni-Mh, Ni-Zn), single use lithium batteries (e.g. button/coin cell, AA, AAA, 9V, C, D, CR123A, CR2), and batteries greater than 9 volts at an approved drop-off location for safe disposal.





For additional drop off locations provided voluntarily by retailers in the City, please visit **alexandriava.gov/go/3619**.

DROP OFF LOCATIONS

3224 Colvin Street (just off Duke Street)

Monday: 7:30 am to 3:30 pm (except holidays)
Tuesday-Friday: CLOSED
Saturday: 7:30 am to 3:30 pm (except holidays)
Sunday: CLOSED

$ FREE

EXAMPLES OF BATTERIES TO DROP OFF



Rechargeable batteries are found in more places than you may think! Be sure to check these common items before placing them in any waste receptacles and properly dispose any batteries you may find:

- Cordless power tools (e.g. leaf blowers, drills, saws, grinders, lawn mowers)
- Cellphones, cordless phones, two-way radios
- Flashlights
- Laptops and tablets
- Biomedical equipment
- Childrens' toys
- Singing greeting cards
- Keyless entry remotes and remote controls
- E-cigarettes
- Electronic toothbrushes
- Smoke detectors

REDUCE PLASTIC BAGS



Lightweight plastic bags are commonly found in waterways as litter and remain as a pollutant. Wildlife commonly mistake plastic bags for food and also cause microscopic particles of broken down plastics to enter the food chain. The City of Alexandria, along with Arlington and Fairfax counties, adopted a 5-cent per plastic bag tax that went into effect January 1, 2022.

Avoid the 5-cent bag fee when shopping at grocery stores, convenience stores, and drug stores by bringing your reusable bag whenever you shop. For more information visit: **alexandriava.gov/go/2091**.

REUSABLE BAG ACCESS FOR SNAP & WIC COMMUNITIES

The City offers reusable bags to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) communities free of charge, while supplies last at:

Community and Human Services Front Office (DCHS)

2525 Mount Vernon Avenue

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Department of Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES)

2900-B Business Center Drive

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.



FOAM-FREE ALEXANDRIA

In 2021, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation banning the use of expanded polystyrene products by food vendors with 20 or more locations by **July 1, 2025**. All other food vendors are required to stop using these products by **July 1, 2026**.

What's expanded polystyrene?

Expanded polystyrene (EPS)— also known as foam or by the common brand name Styrofoam™— is a non-recyclable material commonly used in single use containers, cups, plates, and other servingware.

Who does this apply to?

Any food vendors who serve prepared food will need to take steps to phase out EPS products. That means you'll start finding alternative options to EPS products at:

- Restaurants
- Food trucks
- Catering companies
- Grocery store salad bars and prepared food sections
- Other food service locations

Why ban EPS products?

As waste, EPS products take over 500 years to break down in landfills. The lightweight material is easily blown out of trash cans and into the environment, where it pollutes waterways and is dangerous to wildlife. Styrene, which is a major component of EPS, can also be hazardous to humans in large amounts.

What are the alternatives?

Instead of using EPS products, look for:

- Reusable containers
- Bamboo and wheat straw
- Recyclable plastics
- Foil and metal

To see if alternatives should be placed in the trash, recycling, or compost, use the "What Goes Where" tool at **alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery**

REDUCE HOLIDAY WASTE

On average, household waste increases by more than 25% from Thanksgiving to New Years. Help reduce waste during the holiday season with these simple tips.



Keep tanglers out of the blue bin

Please remember to keep items that tangle out of the recycling bin this holiday season. Reuse ribbons and bows or place them in the trash.



Empty, flatten, and recycle boxes and cardboard

This holiday season, remember to empty, flatten, and recycle your shipping and gift boxes. When you flatten boxes in makes more room in your recycling bin.



Recycle while cooking

Cooking this holiday season? Items such as milk cartons, aluminum cans, and baking sheets can be recycled. Just make sure they are rinsed and dry before placing them in the bin.



Consider giving experiences

Tickets to a show, dinner for two, or movie coupons are all great gift ideas that require no packaging. Alternative gifts can also include donations to local charities, adopting a street, or sponsoring an animal at a local shelter. Remember memories can last longer than things.



Gift in reusable or recyclable containers

Get creative this holiday season! Reuse boxes from online purchases as gift boxes or give existing materials a second life as gift wrap. These can include newspapers, magazines, and bags. Pro tip: The comics are terrific for wrapping children's gifts.



Use natural materials in your holiday décor

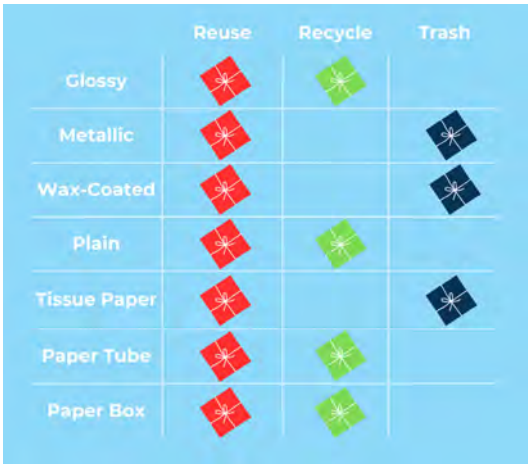
Decorate using real greenery. Natural wreaths and garland decor can be composted with your other yard waste after the holidays. Just remember to remove any wires, lights, or ribbon. For more information about recycling yard waste, see page 12.

WRAPPING PAPER GUIDE

Purchase wrapping paper made with recycled materials and reuse tissue and wrapping paper.

Remember, metallic and glitter wrapping paper are not recyclable.

Learn more about how to sustainably prepare for the holidays at **alexandriava.gov/go/4151**.



TOOLS TO HELP REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE



RECYCLE RIGHT SORTING GAME

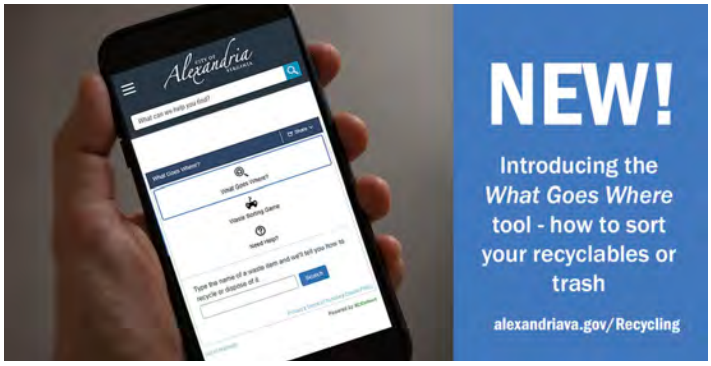
The City launched a sorting game that teaches you how to sort recyclables, yard waste and trash properly. Test your knowledge of sorting using City services and build your own digital Alexandria park!

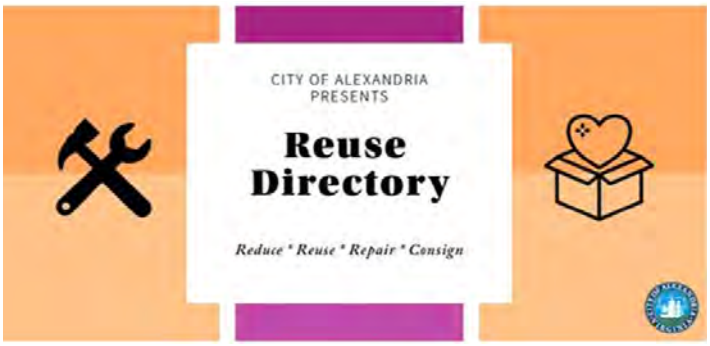
alexandriava.recycle.game

WHAT GOES WHERE?

Unsure about which items can be recycled or trashed? With the City's new "What Goes Where?" tool, the guesswork is out. Simply type in the name of the item you have a question about, and information will be provided on how best to dispose of it.

alexandriava.gov/Recycling





REUSE DIRECTORY

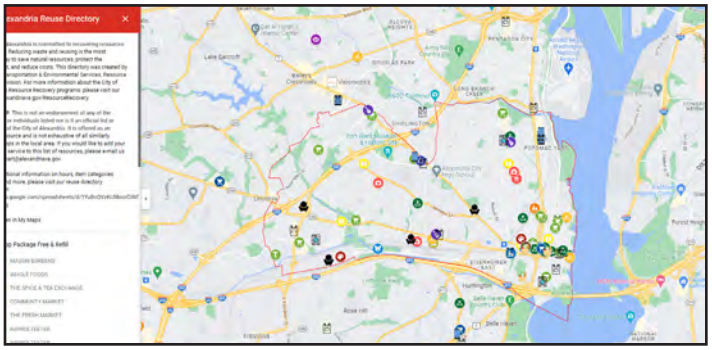
Want to reduce and reuse but not sure where to start? Visit the City's website for our new Reuse Directory! Find a list of local resources where you can repair, donate, and shop second-hand.

alexandriava.gov/go/2773

PACKAGE FREE MAP

Have you been curious about reducing waste or going package free? Visit our website to learn a few easy tips on shopping package-free and reducing your household packaging and plastic waste.

alexandriava.gov/go/2773





PREVENT FOOD WASTE

Prevent food waste with tips for shopping wisely, using the food you have, and keeping food fresh longer. Check out Save the Food's website for tools such as an interactive dinner party calculator, a digital tool to help to create your next shopping list, an interactive storage guide, and more.

alexandriava.gov/FoodWaste

HOW TO CONTACT US

Alex311 connects you to more than 175 City services in a variety of convenient ways. The Alex311 mobile app and website allow you to attach photos and specify the location of service requests.

Call 311 or 703.746.4311 from anywhere in Alexandria, or submit requests on Facebook, Twitter and in-person.

When a service request is submitted, you'll receive an email including a summary of the details, an expected response date based on the request type and a case number to track progress.



CONNECTING YOU TO CITY SERVICES

alexandriava.gov/Alex311

STAY CONNECTED



Visit the City's website at alexandriava.gov



Visit the Resource Recovery Division's website at alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery

Follow us on social media @AlexandriaVATES

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

For the Holiday Operating Schedule, please visit: **alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery**.

TRANSLATIONS

For a Spanish or Amharic version of this Guide, please visit: **alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery**.

Para leer esta guía en español, visite nuestro sitio web o use su teléfono para escanear el código QR.

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