

# livegreenlexington

Becoming a zero-waste community.



The newsletter of Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Division of Waste Management



Resident fills her Rosie and then puts cart out for pick up.



Waste Management services the Rosie with a sideloader truck.

## Where do my recyclables go?



Collection truck dumps its load at the MRF.



If you have lived in Lexington for a while, you are probably familiar with the Rosie, the blue cart that houses your recyclables before they are picked up by a Waste Management truck. Do you know what happens to your soda bottles, soup cans, newspapers and boxes after that?

Lexington has a fleet of 128 trucks that collect recyclables, yard waste and landfill-bound trash, and the same truck might not be in your neighborhood every week. Your trash might be emptied into a truck with a yard waste message on the side, or your yard waste might be picked up by a truck with a recycling symbol. Your recyclables are not being mixed with trash; your neighborhood trucks are just being switched for better optimization.

Lexington has "single-stream recycling," which means that all of your recyclables get collected together in one truck. This makes it easier for you to recycle because you do not have to sort your recyclables before you put them into your Rosie.

If you live or work downtown, you might even notice

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# Our recycling efforts support nearly 3,000 jobs



The materials are taken into the main part of the recycling facility and then sorted by type -- paper, plastics, cans, etc.



The plastics are baled and then taken to companies who use the material to make new products.



The aluminum cans are baled and then shipped to Novelis who melts the cans.



Plastic is repurposed into playground equipment, park benches.



Novelis melts cans into large ingots and sells aluminum for new products.

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trash and recyclables being emptied into the same truck. These split-body trucks are used when we need one truck to pick up both recycling and trash. If you look at the back of the truck, you will notice that there are two separate compartments, one for trash and one for recycling. Split-body trucks are convenient for special events like parades and festivals because one truck can do the work of two.

When the recycling truck is finished with its route, it goes to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) near the distillery district. Trash trucks go to the Transfer Station on Old Frankfort Pike, where the trash will be taken by semi trucks to various landfills throughout Kentucky, and yard waste trucks go to the Haley Pike Landfill, where our leaves and grass are composted into mulch.

At the MRF, Lexington's recyclables are sorted so they can be shipped to recycling companies to make our old goods into new ones. Last year, Lexington residents and businesses recycled over 36,500 tons of material – that is 36,500 tons we kept out of the landfill!

Our aluminum cans are sent to Novelis in Berea to be made into aluminum ingots that will eventually become building materials and, of course, more aluminum cans. Our cardboard is sent to International Paper in Maysville to produce cardboard packaging, and our milk jugs are sent to Play Mart in Somerset to be made into playground equipment and park benches.

Recycling efforts in Lexington support nearly 3,000 jobs in Kentucky and surrounding states. When you recycle at home, you are contributing to the local economy, as well as improving the environment. The next time you throw your milk jugs and junk mail into the Rosie, remember these fun facts!



# The DOs and DON'Ts of RECYCLING

## YES, YOU CAN

### 1. Cardboard and Boxboard

Cardboard packing boxes, cardboard tubes, boxes (with grey or brown insides), pizza boxes, cereal boxes, and any box that does not have a plastic coating. Boxes should be flattened.



### 2. Cans

Steel food cans (empty), aluminum beer, juice and soda cans (empty), and metal aerosol cans (empty).

### 3. Plastic

Two-liter drink bottles, juice bottles and jugs, water bottles, milk jugs and detergent bottles (empty and rinsed, no lids or caps). Please no plastic bags.

### 4. Paper

- white paper
- colored paper
- envelopes
- calendars
- brown paper bags
- notepads



- folders
- newspapers
- magazines
- fliers
- brochures
- phone books
- shredded paper (bagged in a clear plastic bag)

### 5. Glass

Any glass bottles and jars, any color.

## NO, YOU CAN'T

### 1. Metal Items and Tanks

No swing sets, cookware, knives, chains, scrap metal, propane or helium tanks or compressors. Metal items can be dropped off at the Lexington Recycling Center at 360 Thompson Road.



### 2. Car Parts and Tires

No car parts, tires or batteries. Free collection of 4 tires off the rim is available to residents by calling LexCall (311).

### 3. Hoses and Cords

No garden hoses, extension cords, ropes or leashes. They get tangled in the machinery. Put in your Herbie (trash).

### 4. Needles and Syringes

Needles and syringes should be secured in a coffee can or milk jug and put in the Herbie (trash).

### 5. Clothes Hangers

Hangers can jam our equipment. Donate them to a charity, drop them off at the Recycling Center metal box, or put them in the Herbie (trash).



### 6. Tarps and Clothing

No tarps, blankets or clothing. These items can get tangled in the machinery. Put in your Herbie (trash) or donate to a charity.

### 7. Plastic Items

No lawn chairs, laundry baskets, trash cans, toys, blinds, buckets or other plastic items. If items are unbroken, donate to a local charity; if broken, place in your Herbie (trash).

## Need to dispose of electronics? Our e-cycling facility is the place to go

Residents may drop off electronic waste to the city's Electronics Recycling Facility, located at 1306 Versailles Rd. This service is available to residents of Fayette County only; no businesses or non-profits are eligible to drop off items through this program.

Items that may be dropped off at this facility include:

- TVs and VCRs
- Computers, printers and copiers
- Toner cases
- Cell phones and handheld games
- Microwaves and toasters
- Radios and stereo equipment

- VHS, DVDs and cassette tapes
- Hairdryers and other small corded electronic items
- Holiday lights
- Rechargeable batteries
- Fluorescent light tubes
- And more

The facility is open six days a week. Hours are: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Wednesdays 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

If you would like to learn more about the city's electronics recycling program, please call



LexCall at 311 or (859) 425-2255 or go to [www.lexingtonky.gov/ecycle](http://www.lexingtonky.gov/ecycle).





Department of Environmental Quality  
and Public Works

**DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT**

675 Byrd-Thurman Drive  
Lexington, KY 40510

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Lexington KY  
Permit #1

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## Upcoming Events

**Saturday, April 18**  
**Household Waste Disposal Day**

6 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Transfer Station  
1505 Old Frankfort Pike

Fayette County Residents can dispose of household waste at no cost. Citizens can drop off a level pickup truckload of bagged household waste and up to four tires off the rims for free.

**Saturday, April 18**  
**Mulch Giveaway**

8 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Old Landfill Pad  
1631 Old Frankfort Pike

Yard waste collected by Waste Management is turned into mulch and given away at no charge to Fayette County residents. Mulch is distributed on a first-come, first served basis. Each resident is allowed one pickup truck load.

**Saturday, April 25**  
**Arbor Day Celebration**

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
UK Arboretum, 500 Alumni Dr.

Celebration includes a reading of the Arbor Day proclamation, free admission to the Kentucky Children's Garden, a puppet show, special guest appearances by Rosie, guided hikes, and more than 40 exhibitors. This will be a zero-waste event.

**Saturday, May 16**  
**Paper Shred Day**

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Old Landfill Pad  
1631 Old Frankfort Pike  
Entrance to event will be via Jimmie Campbell Dr.

The Division of Waste Management is working with Shred-it and other partner organizations to host a community paper shred event. Come safely shred unwanted documents and papers after tax season concludes at this event and ensure the material is recycled into low-grade paper products.

**Saturday, June 20**  
**Kentucky River Clean Sweep**  
**9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**  
**Clays Ferry Boat Dock**

You can have fun while helping clean litter out of the river and off of the shoreline. Breakfast and lunch provided! Sign up at [www.lexingtonky.gov/riversweep](http://www.lexingtonky.gov/riversweep)

## Holiday collections

The holidays are coming and will impact certain normal collection days. Place your carts out the evening before your collection day.

**MEMORIAL DAY:** Monday, May 25. Those who normally have their collections on Monday will have their carts serviced on Wednesday, May 27.

**FOURTH OF JULY:** Friday, July 3. Those who normally have their collections on Friday will have their carts serviced on Wednesday, July 1, **before the holiday.**

**LABOR DAY:** Monday, Sept. 7. Those who normally have their collections on Monday will have their carts serviced on Wednesday, Sept. 9.

## We need your help so we can better serve you

Street trees are an important part of Lexington's neighborhoods. But they can also pose problems if they are not properly pruned.

"Maintaining proper street tree clearances ensures that emergency, delivery, and service vehicles such as Waste Management collection trucks have unfettered access to all

properties, while providing a safe thoroughfare for pedestrians," says Rob Ballard, Arborist Technician in the Division of Environmental Services.

Property owners are required to prune their street trees to maintain a 7-foot clearance above a sidewalk and a 12-foot clearance above a street.



## Make the most of your Lenny cart

Now that winter is over, it's time to enjoy spring days outside in the sunshine! With the warmer weather comes spring cleaning efforts, and residents may find themselves spending more time tending to their yards.

If you regularly have yard waste material to dispose of and do not already have a Lenny, the Division of Waste Management encourages you to order one at no cost by calling LexCall at 311 or 425-2255. There is no charge for servicing the container – this is a free service provided to you by the city if you receive garbage pickup.

The best way to dispose of any yard waste material is by placing it in your Lenny.

Please remember these tips for preparing yard waste for disposal:

- Limbs and branches that do not fit in the Lenny must be bundled with string or twine. They must also be trimmed down to less than four feet in length and less than six inches in diameter. Place these bundles on the curb next to your Lenny.
- Mulch your leaves with a mower and leave them on your lawn to instantly improve soil quality and add nutrients. Yard waste bags may be used to dispose of leaves and other materials that do not fit in your Lenny or cannot be reused on your lawn.
- Watch for the announcement about the fall leaf collection schedule – a great way to participate in leaf collection efforts for those with large amounts of fall leaves around that time of year.
- Any Fayette County resident may drop off up to two loads of yard waste material to the Haley Pike Waste Management Facility per month.

Questions? Please visit [www.lexingtonky.gov/wastemanagement](http://www.lexingtonky.gov/wastemanagement) or call LexCall at 311 or (859) 425-2255.

The above tips detail great ways to participate in the city's yard waste program, but remember to use your Lenny whenever you can!