

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is "Corpus Christi Recycles"

A. Corpus Christi Recycles gives customers an easy solution for their recycling. All residential customers receive a 95 gallon blue "Smart Cart" for their recyclables. All approved recycling material is combined into that one cart. This collection process is called "single-stream recycling."

Q: Why is it called "single-stream?"

A. In the past, recyclable items were curbed-sorted into different truck bins using different containers. Now, all approved recyclable items can be combined into a "single" cart. That is why it is called "single-stream" -- the recyclables "flow" from only one collection "stream."

Q: Isn't it better for recycling if we separate the different items?

A. The process and equipment for handling recyclables has improved. Sorting at the materials handling facility can get the right materials to the right place. Now, all you need to do is make sure you place the right items in your blue recycling cart.

Q: What about my household trash?

A. Your green cart will hold all of the other household waste that cannot be recycled. This includes food (or items such as pizza boxes that have food contamination), glass (including light bulbs), coat hangers, Styrofoam, or unnumbered plastic.

Q: Should I put my waste in a trash bag?

A. You should continue to use household trash bags for the non-recyclable waste as you would normally.

Q: Do I have to clean my recyclables?

A. All liquids should be emptied before placing the container, for example, a plastic detergent bottle, in the cart. If the item is merely damp, it will not contaminate the recyclables. As always, no items with food contamination should be put in the cart.

Q: What can I recycle?

A. Corpus Christi Recycles offers customers the opportunity to recycle a wide range of products. Plastics with the numbers 1 - 7, plastic shopping bags (tie a knot in them to keep from blowing), paper including newspaper, junk mail, and office paper, cardboard boxes, tin cans, aluminum cans, and a range of other items.

Q: What is the pick-up schedule?

A. Traditional household trash (green cart) will be collected every seven days (on holiday weeks, pick up may be on the eighth day). Recyclables (blue "Smart Cart") will be collected every 14 days on the same day as your household trash day.

Q: What happens on holidays?

A. Your household trash will be collected every week -- even when there is a holiday. On some traditional holidays such as Memorial Day, your collection day will remain the same. On a few holidays such as Fourth of July, Christmas and Thanksgiving, the schedule may shift. Each year you will receive information on the collection schedule.

Q: Will the Recycling Centers still operate?

A. Yes, the City has recycling locations that will continue to be available for those who would like to use them. Corpus Christi Recycles single-stream collection is available only to residential customers at this time. Those who live in apartment complexes may still take their materials to these centers.

Q: What is RecycleBank?

A. RecycleBank offers rewards for recycling. The program provides incentives for customers who recycle. For more information, visit www.recyclebank.com or call their customer care number - (888)727-2978.

Q: How will RecycleBank know I'm recycling?

A. Each blue cart will be tagged to your address. When the recycling truck picks up your recyclables, it will be recorded and downloaded for automated tracking.

Q: How do I participate in RecycleBank?

A. You will receive an information packet from RecycleBank that provides the details on how to set up your RecycleBank account.

Q: Does the blue cart belong to me?

A. The blue cart is the property of the City of Corpus Christi. It is linked to your specific street address.

Q: What do I do with the green containers I use now?

A. After January 31, 2011, you can reuse these containers for other purposes or place them in your blue "Smart Cart" to be recycled.

Q: Why does it cost more?

A. The \$1.93 increase in Solid Waste charges includes the cost of the blue "Smart Carts," the RecycleBank program, and ongoing education and outreach regarding recycling.

Q: What do I do if I live in an apartment?

A. You can bring your recyclable items to one of the city's recycling drop-locations. To provide services at your location, contact your building manager or homeowners association to develop a program with the contracted waste hauler.

Q: My blue Smart Cart is overflowing - what do I do?

A. If you generate more recyclable material than your cart can hold and would like a second cart, contact Solid Waste Services at 826-CITY (2489). You may receive one at no charge.

Q: I saw someone going through my recycling cart?

A. The materials in the carts belong to the City of Corpus Christi. If you should see a stranger going through your Smart Cart, contact the City's Customer Call Center at 826-CITY (2489).