



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Time to get out and have some fun after a long spring indoors. Here are a few tips to think about...

A reminder, protective equipment related to the coronavirus outbreak are not recyclable. Waste crews have seen a surge in items like gloves, masks and gowns placed in recycling carts when they actually belong in the trash.

The disposable wipes, paper towels and tissues that people have been using to sanitize surfaces also are not recyclable. These same items aren't flushable, either, even if their packaging claims they are. They can clog your plumbing because they don't break down like toilet tissue does.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, everyone should:

- Clean your hands often, either with soap and water for 20 seconds or a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Put distance between yourself and other people (at least 6 feet).
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces daily.



### We want our service to be the best, and you can help

**Garbage Carts** Please place your cart at the curb edge with *at least 3 feet of clearance* from other objects, including other carts, basketball hoops and motor vehicles. Make sure your cart lid is down completely. Thank you for helping us provide you with the best possible service. Together we can keep our neighborhoods safe and clean.

**Please — no dirt, rocks, batteries, fluorescent lights, sharps or overloading — lids must be closed to prevent spills.**



**Recycling Cart Acceptable List** Paper, cardboard, aluminum containers and foil, steel or tin cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles and tubs (such as yogurt, margarine and cottage cheese, numbers ♻️ through ♻️).

**Recycling Cart Non-Acceptable List** No plastic bags, wrapping film, wire and string, waxed paper containers, foam packaging, paper towels & napkins, food soiled paper & cardboard, aerosol cans and diapers.

**Greenwaste Cart Acceptable List** Grass and weed clippings, shrubs and tree prunings (less than 4" in diameter), leaves, plants and flowers, food scraps and food soiled paper products.

**Greenwaste Cart Non-Acceptable List** No plastic bags, wrapping film, no household garbage. **No dirt or rocks.**  
**No overloading — lid must be closed to prevent spills.**

## Barbecue Or Fireplace Ashes?



Fire Departments often respond to fires in trash carts, garages and backyard sheds, which sometimes spread into the house. In many of these cases, we find that an improper container used to store ashes is the cause of the fire: grocery bags, plastic buckets, plastic trash cans. Sometimes all that is left is a little puddle of plastic the size of a silver dollar under the area of heaviest damage.

Cold ashes many times conceal hot embers within. These embers can smolder for days. When they come in contact with something flammable, fire results.

Using the correct container is a surefire cure for ash disposal fires. Grocery bags and aluminum foil will ignite in just a few hours after they have been filled with ashes. Plastic trash containers are absolutely no good for ash removal. Even if the plastic trash can is lidded, the hot embers touch the side of the container, melt through, let in air, and when the air mixes with the melted plastic, a very hot fire quickly results. In many cases, hot ashes dumped on a compost heap will start a fire with the first gust of wind.

Use a metal container with a lid that seals tightly. Place your ashes in the container, put the lid on tightly, and place it away from walls, papers, and other flammables. Let it sit for a week, at least, before you dispose of it. As an added precaution you may want to add some water to the ashes. Thoroughly **wet ashes** can be placed in aluminum foil and disposed of in the trash. **Never put ashes that have not been cooled with water in foil** and then put in the trash because the package can be torn open or create enough heat to cause a fire in your trash cart.

## Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Danger!

No batteries should ever be placed in any trash, recycling or green cart! Due to the presence of corrosive chemicals, toxins such as mercury and lead, and charged electrodes, ALL batteries pose hazards and risk of fire, but the biggest risk lies with rechargeable batteries.

Many rechargeable batteries fall under a specific category of battery known as Lithium-Ion (also referred to as Li-ion battery or LIB). The Li-ion battery found in your electronics such as cell phones, laptops, pads, tablets, iPods, hover boards and digital cameras are probably the most familiar to you.



It is especially risky when Li-ion batteries are mistakenly put into a recycling bin and end up bouncing around in the back of a dry recycling truck. Pressure or heat (in the summer months our trucks can get quite hot) can cause them to spark, setting off a chain reaction which spells disaster when that battery is in the back of a full recycling truck, surrounded by dry paper and cardboard. In fact, Li-ion Batteries are one of the leading causes of recycling truck fires.

The rise of electronics being improperly disposed of in trash or recycling carts is troubling. We live in an age of technology where nearly everyone owns a cellphone, laptop, tablet, etc. and with updates and upgrades being required so often, we find the need to dispose of our older models what seems like...all the time. However, properly disposing of your cellphones and anything containing batteries, especially the volatile Li-ion variety, is crucial to avoid dangerous truck fires and ensure safety.

A suggested cause for improper disposal of Li-ions is likely due to a common misconception and mixed messaging. When an item states it is “recyclable” many assume that you can recycle it with your Recycling cart; this is not the case. When an item is “recyclable”, that simply means it can be recycled in some way; it doesn’t mean it can be put in with your Recycling cart. Rechargeable, Li-ion can be recycled, but only at specified locations. Visit [StopWaste.org](http://StopWaste.org) or call 1-877-STOPWASTE (786-7927) for safe disposal options.