



## DOWNTOWN RECYCLING AND TRASH SERVICE DISTRICT FAQs

### What is the Downtown Recycling and Trash Service District?

- The Downtown Recycling and Trash Service District is a specific area for which the City of Austin manages waste management and litter-control services. The City created this area to reduce the amount of truck traffic downtown, increase efficiency, and maintain a minimum level of cleanliness. As such, Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) manages a contract with a private hauler to provide recycling and trash collection services. Additionally, every night, ARR sweeps and cleans designated streets and alleys in the district. Fees paid by properties within the service district fund these services.

### What items can go in the recycling dumpsters?

- Flattened corrugated cardboard boxes
- Aluminum, tin and steel cans (remove liquid first), and clean aluminum foil
- Boxboard/paperboard
- Mixed paper
- Newspapers, magazines and phone books
- Hard plastic containers #1–7 (remove liquid first)
- Empty glass containers and bottles (remove liquid first)

### What cannot go in the recycling dumpsters?

- Construction debris
- Liquids, including ice
- Wood pallets
- Mattresses
- Food waste and food-soiled paper (dirty paper plates, cups, napkins)
- Plastic bags or plastic wrap
- Styrofoam
- Paper towels or tissues
- Straws

### What items cannot go in the trash dumpsters?

- Liquids, including ice
- Construction debris
- Wood pallets
- Mattresses
- Appliances or other bulk items

### What do I do with construction debris, wood pallets, or other items that cannot go in the trash dumpsters?

- You should have these items hauled directly to a construction-recycling processing facility or landfill.
- If items can be reused, donate them. For lists of construction-debris processors or places where you can take reusable items to, please visit: [www.austintexas.gov/processor](http://www.austintexas.gov/processor) or [www.austinreusedirectory.com](http://www.austinreusedirectory.com)

### How do I report illegal dumping?

- Call 3-1-1 to report the issue to the City's Code Department
- If you can, write down a description of the person or vehicle, and/or license plate

### How can I tell which dumpsters are for recycling and which are for trash?

- Dumpsters are labeled "Recycling" or "Landfill Trash." Look for the label just below the dumpster lids.

### Can we use any dumpster in the alley?

- Yes – as long as it is within your block of the service district. See attached map. Dumpsters are not designated for individual businesses or properties.

#### **IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW:**

1. **Liquids, Ice and Construction Debris are not allowed in the trash or recycling dumpsters.** These materials can cause operational problems for the dumpster service provider. Please dispose of them in an appropriate manner. Please close dumpster lids to prevent rainwater from accumulating.
2. **You may use any of the dumpsters within your block of the service district.** Dumpsters are not designated for individual businesses or properties.
3. **You have Single-Stream Recycling. Many recyclable items can go in the recycling dumpsters.** Allowed items include flattened cardboard; mixed paper; glass bottles/jars (empty); plastic bottles/containers (empty); aluminum, tin and steel cans (empty); and clean aluminum foil.
4. **Food waste, food-soiled paper (e.g., dirty napkins or paper plates), and other non-recyclable items are not allowed in the recycling dumpsters.** These items must go in the trash dumpsters or be disposed of in an appropriate manner.

#### **TIPS FOR KEEPING LIQUIDS OUT OF DUMPSTERS:**

1. **Empty bottles, cans, and cups in the sink** before putting these items in dumpsters.
2. **Buckets of ice or mop water should be poured down the drain.** Do not empty ice or mop water into dumpsters.
3. **Keep dumpster lids closed** to prevent rainwater from accumulating in dumpsters.
4. **Contact Austin Resource Recovery if dumpster lids need to be repaired or replaced.** There is no charge for dumpster lid replacement.

#### **Have a question about what to do with liquids or other items from a downtown businesses?**

Contact Austin Resource Recovery staff at [commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov](mailto:commercialrecycling@austintexas.gov)

#### **Have a question about your service?**

Contact Austin Resource Recovery at 512-974-1964