

Glass Recycling Events

2024 Calendar and Information

Glass had long been used as a storage container for many products. Once plastic became commonplace, plastic bottles and jugs replaced their glass counterparts. The plastic industry touted its low weight, it being shatterproof, and the flexibility benefits of plastic over glass. The use of plastic containers has overtaken most of glass's original roles. Fortunately, glass usage remains popular for many products because of its ability to preserve taste and structure.

Glass bottles and jugs are completely recyclable and one of the easiest materials to recycle because of their chemical makeup and properties.

Why Recycle Glass?

In addition to saving landfill space, recycling glass reduces the consumption of raw materials and saves energy. Glass bottles are 100% recyclable and can be recycled endlessly without any loss in purity or quality. Recycling glass supports a circular economy and the sustainable use of materials by leveraging the infinite recyclability of glass.

Recycled glass is always part of the recipe for manufacturing glass. When cullet is mixed with sand, soda ash, and lime-stone and heated, the substance turns into a liquid. That liquid is then poured into molds to make new containers. Recycled glass can be substituted for up to 95% of raw materials. Manufacturers benefit from recycling in several ways. Recycled glass reduces pollution, extends the life of furnaces, saves energy, and lowers costs.

What Types of Glass are Accepted for Recycling?

Recycling programs that take glass only accept clear, brown, and green **bottles, jugs, and jars only**. Essentially, this means glass food and beverage containers such as beer bottles, wine jugs, mason and pickle jars, liquor bottles, and vinegar and oil bottles.

This means no drinking glasses, ceramics, cookware, light bulbs, windows, dishes, mirrors or any other glass item. These other types of "glass" have different melting points, physical properties, and chemical makeups that impact their recyclability.

Local Recycling Options

The Lawrence-Mercer Recycling/Solid Waste Department is partnering with the Pennsylvania Resources Council and the City of Hermitage to bring the Traveling Glass Recycling Bin to Lawrence and Mercer counties.

Here is the schedule and list of event locations. Drop-off your glass for recycling during these week-long collection events.

JUNE 1—JUNE 6, 2024: Lawrence County Courthouse, New Castle

JULY 6—JULY 11, 2024: Elks Lodge #145, Greenville

AUGUST 3—AUGUST 8: Lawrence County Courthouse, New Castle

AUGUST 31—SEPT 5, 2024: Springfield Twp. Municipal Bldg., Mercer

SEPT 28—OCT 3, 2024: Hermitage VFD Station #3, Hermitage



Recycling/Solid Waste Department
724-658-6925
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Why Choose Glass Packaging?

Unlike plastic, glass does not break down into harmful chemicals that leach into the food or beverage it contains, therefore protecting human health and the environment. Glass preserves well and the glass supporters believe the taste is better and more natural when coming from glass containers. Glass can be refillable after sanitizing and handles harsh environments and temperature.

Cullet is then transported to Owens-Illinois in Brockport, PA to manufacture new glass bottles. A glass bottle can be recycled into new glass bottles in as little as 30 days. The recoverability of glass through source separated drop-offs is 40-50% higher than single stream recycling. Drop-off programs eliminate the need for sorting and result in high quality glass for processing into cullet.

How is the Glass Recycled?

Glass from the Traveling Glass Bin is managed by Michael Brothers Hauling from Pittsburgh who transports the glass bottles, jugs, and jars to a processing facility. The CAP Glass facility in Mt. Pleasant, PA processes the glass, breaking it down into smaller pieces. The resulting cullet is an industry term for furnace-ready recycled glass.

Glass Recycling Issues

Glass is an easy material to recycle but there are obstacles to successful glass recycling programs. Single stream recycling, where recyclables are mixed together in the same bin, was developed to simplify and make recycling easier for people. Single stream recycling makes the recoverability and recycling of glass difficult and expensive. The most efficient way to recycle glass is source-separated, that is collected separately from other recyclables. This method/system preserves quality, is less expensive, and conserves energy.

For glass recycling to work effectively, glass needs to be collected separate from other materials.

Glass facts (from the Glass Packaging Institute)

- Glass is 100% recyclable and can be recycled endlessly without loss in quality.
- Glass is made from readily available domestic materials such as sand, soda ash, limestone and recycled glass (cullet).
- Glass recycling can be substituted for up to 95% of raw materials.
- Over a ton of natural resources are saved for every ton of glass recycled.
- One ton of carbon dioxide is reduced for every six tons of recycled container glass used.
- Energy costs drop 3-3% for every 10% cullet used in the manufacturing process.



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