

2021 Pinellas County Recycle Guide

pinellascounty.org/recycle

Text-only edition

Pinellas County Solid Waste
Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education

What can I recycle?

- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic bottles and jugs
- Cans
- Cartons
- Paper and cardboard

Everything clean and dry

- No caps
- No lids
- No straws
- No food
- No shredded paper
- No plastic bags

In 2020, recycling in Pinellas County had a 19% contamination rate

Based on a study conducted in October 2020, the contamination rate of recyclables collected in the County* was 19 percent (by weight).

This means that nearly one in every five pounds of recycling collected was either garbage or other materials not accepted in local recycling programs. Contamination can damage equipment, endanger staff and make quality recyclables unusable.

* Pinellas County and 18 municipalities participated in a recyclable materials composition study to collect data

What can you do to decrease contamination in your recycling bin?

Follow your recycling program rules, and review them at least once a year. Stick to the basics and place only items shown on the cover of this guide in your recycling bin.

The top contaminants found were:

- Plastic bags
- Tangles (wires, cords or hoses)
- Styrofoam
- Food waste and food residue
- Yard waste

When in doubt, leave it out

These items do not belong in your recycle bin:

- Clothing
- Yard waste
- Wires, cords or hoses
- Tissues, paper towels or napkins
- Styrofoam or packing materials
- Plastic bags

Still not sure where it goes?

Use our search tool at pinellascounty.org/wheredoesitgo to find out!

Going beyond the text activity: What can I recycle?

In Pinellas County, local cities manage solid waste and recycling. Residents in unincorporated areas can contract with a private company for recycling pickup, or use Pinellas County's free recycling drop-off locations. Materials accepted by each city's program can differ. It's important to know what can and can't be recycled in your city. Split the class into small groups by their home city. Use the contact information on Pages 6, 7 and 8 to research where and how they can recycle. Does their city offer curbside recycling? What are the dropoff locations? What items can be recycled? How should these items be prepared for recycling (e.g., rinse plastic bottles, remove lids)? Do residents need to separate items by type or are they sorted later? How does collection at businesses differ from household collection or collection at apartment buildings?

Using the advertisements and advertorials in the *Tampa Bay Times* as models, create a full page advertisement to present the information you have learned. Present the information to your class.

Florida Standards: SS.4.C.2.1; SS.5.C.2.5; LAFS.512.L.1.2; LAFS.512.RF.4.4; LAFS.512.RI.1.2; LAFS.512.RI.1.3; LAFS.512.RI.2.5; LAFS.512.RI.3.7; LAFS.512.RI.3.9; LAFS.512.SL.1.1; LAFS.512.SL.1.2; LAFS.512.SL.1.3; LAFS.512.SL.2.4; LAFS.512.W.1.2; LAFS.512.W.2.4.

Recycling dropoff centers

Belleair

- John J. Osborne Public Works Building • 1075 Ponce de Leon Blvd.

Clearwater

- Clearwater Solid Waste Facility • 1701 N Hercules Ave.
- North County Service Center • 29582 U.S. 19 N, west side, south of Curlew Road
- Sand Key Park • 1060 Gulf Blvd.
- Walmart • 23106 U.S. 19 N, southeast corner of parking lot

Dunedin

- Highlander Park Recycling Site • 1941 Ed Eckert Dr., across from Highlander Pool
- Lake Haven Recycling Center • 810 Lake Haven Road

Gulfport

- 49th Street Neighborhood Center • 1617 49th St. S Only cardboard, paper and glass are accepted. Glass must be separated from other materials.

Indian Rocks Beach

- Brown Park • Bay Blvd. and 2nd St. Cardboard is not accepted.
- Indian Rocks Beach Nature Preserve • 903 Gulf Blvd. Cardboard is not accepted.
- Indian Rocks Historical Museum • 203 4th Ave. Cardboard is not accepted.
- Kolb Park • 1507 Bay Palm Blvd.

Indian Shores

- Indian Shores Town Hall • 19305 Gulf Blvd.

Largo

- Bank of America • 10900 Seminole Blvd.
- Hamlin Boulevard 4-H • 14644 113th Ave. N
- Pinellas County Extension • 12520 Ulmerton Road, south of Ulmerton Road, entrance on 125th St. N Frontage Road
- Starkey Road Recycling Center • 1551 Starkey Road, north of Ulmerton Road, south of East Bay Dr.
- Tri-City Plaza • U.S. 19 N and East Bay Dr., behind Ross store

Palm Harbor

- Curlew Retention Pond • 1740 Curlew Road, between Belcher Road and CR 1
- John Chesnut Sr. Park • 2200 East Lake Road
- William E. Dunn Water Reclamation Facility • 4111 Dunn Dr., Off Alt U.S. 19 N

Redington Shores

- Redington Shores Town Hall • 17425 Gulf Blvd.

Safety Harbor

- Safety Harbor Fire Station 53 • 3095 McMullen-Booth Road
- Safety Harbor Public Works • 1200 Railroad Ave.

Seminole

- Lake Seminole Park • 10015 Park Blvd., east of Seminole Blvd.

St. Petersburg

- City of St. Petersburg Recycling/Brush Sites
 - 1000 62nd Ave. NE
 - 7750 26th Ave. N
 - 2453 20th Ave. N
 - 2500 26th Ave. S
 - 4015 Dr. MLK Jr. St. S
- Clearview United Methodist Church • 4515 38th Ave. N
- Crescent Lake Park • 1320 5th St. N
- Enoch Davis Recreation Center • 1111 18th Ave. S Only aluminum cans are accepted.
- Former Sweetbay • 6095 9th Ave. N, northeast corner of store
- Lakewood Youth Association • 4801 31st St. S Only cardboard, glass bottles and jars, and newspaper are accepted.
- Northwest Park • 2331 60th Ave. N Only cardboard, glass bottles and jars, and newspaper are accepted.
- Pinellas County Solid Waste • 2855 109th Ave. N, next to HEC3
- St. Petersburg Municipal Marina • 300 2nd Ave. SE

Tarpon Springs

- A.L. Anderson Park • 39699 U.S. 19 N, between Klosterman Road and Tarpon Ave.
- Brooker Creek Education Center • 3940 Keystone Road
- Tarpon Springs Fire Rescue Station 70 • 1023 Gulf Road
- Tarpon Springs Yard Waste Facility • 898 S Levis Ave.

Tierra Verde

- Fort De Soto Park boat ramp overflow parking area • 3600 Pinellas Bayway S
- Fort De Soto Park campground • 3500 Pinellas Bayway S

Going beyond the text activity

Read the *Tampa Bay Times* article “What actually happens to your recycling? We toured a Tampa Bay recycling sorting facility to find out” at tampabay.com/news/florida/2019/08/06/where-does-yourrecycling-actually-go-we-toured-a-tampa-bay-plant-to-find-out/. Choose one of the recyclable materials discussed in the article and use the Internet to research what happens to this material after it is sorted and baled. Who purchases this material? What is the value of this material? What happens to the material next? What form does it take and where does it go? What is the final end use of the material? Who is the buyer of the end product? Is it a consumer or a manufacturer? Using the articles in the *Tampa Bay Times* as a model, write a newspaper article about the information you have learned. Make sure you answer the basic journalism questions: Who, what, where, when, why and how.

Florida Standards: SS.4.C.2.1; SS.5.C.2.5; LAFS.5-12.L.1.2; LAFS.5-12.RF.4.4; LAFS.5-12.RI.1.2; LAFS.5-12.RI.1.3; LAFS.5-12.RI.2.5; LAFS.5-12.RI.3.7; LAFS.5-12.RI.3.9; LAFS.5-12.SL.1.1; LAFS.5-12.SL.1.2; LAFS.5-12.SL.1.3; LAFS.5-12.SL.2.4; LAFS.5-12.W.1.2; LAFS.5-12.W.2.4; LAFS.5-12.W.3.7

Contact Information for curbside recycling services

Belleair

727-588-3769 x406

townofbelleair.com

To request a bin, call 727-588-3769 x401

Belleair Beach

727-595-4646 x120

cityofbelleairbeach.com

To request a bin, call 727-595-4646 x120

Belleair Bluffs

727-584-2151

belleairbluffs.org

To request a bin, call 727-572-8779

Belleair Shore

727-593-9296

belleairshore.com

To request a bin, call 727-572-6800

Clearwater

727-562-4920

myclearwater.com/recycling

To request a bin, call 727-562-4920

Dunedin

727-298-3215 x1324

dunedingov.com

To request a bin, call 727-298-3215

Gulfport

727-893-1089

mygulfport.us

Recyclables are collected in two separate bins. Glass is not accepted curbside.

To request a bin, call 727-893-1089

Indian Rocks Beach

727-595-6889

indian-rocks-beach.com

To request a bin, call 727-595-6889

Indian Shores

727-595-4020

myindiashores.com

To request a bin, call 727-572-6800

Kenneth City

727-498-8948

kennethcityfl.org

To request a bin, call 727-572-6800

Largo

727-587-6760

largorecycles.com

To request a bin, call 727-587-6760

Madeira Beach

727-543-8154

madeirabeachfl.gov

To request a bin, call 727-543-8154

North Redington Beach

727-391-4848

townofnrb.com

Call for information about "back door" recycling service.

To request a bin, call 727-452-5278

Oldsmar

813-749-1135

myoldsmar.com

To request a bin, call 813-855-5257

Pinellas Park

727-369-0690

pinellas-park.com

To request a bin, call 727-369-0690

Redington Beach

727-391-3875

townofredingtonbeach.com

To request a bin, call 727-391-3875

Redington Shores

727-397-5538

townofredingtonshores.com

To request a bin, call 727-397-5538

Safety Harbor

727-724-1550 x2002

cityofsafetyharbor.com

To request a bin, call 727-724-1550 x2002

Seminole

727-397-6383 x3

myseminole.com

To request a bin, call 727-393-6383 x3

South Pasadena

727-384-0701

mysouthpasadena.com

To request a bin, call 727-572-6800

St. Petersburg

727-893-7838

stpete.org/recycle

To request a bin, call 727-893-7838

St. Pete Beach

727-363-9243

stpetebeach.org

To request a bin, call 727-363-9243

Tarpon Springs

727-943-4837

ctsfl.us

To request a bin, call 727-943-4837

Treasure Island

727-547-4575 x253

mytreasureisland.org

To request a bin, call 727-547-4575 x253

Contact information for residents that do not reside in the above cities:

Residents who live in unincorporated areas can contract directly with one of the haulers listed below to request curbside recycling service.

To find out if you live in an unincorporated area, visit pinellascounty.org/resident/unincorporated_areas.htm.

County Sanitation

727-522-5794

countysanitationservice.com

D & D Hauling

727-586-6416

dndhauling.com

Orion Waste Solutions

d/b/a Russo & Sons LLC

727-561-0360

orionwaste.com

Solar Sanitation

727-535-0447

solarsanitationinc.com

Superior Trash Service

727-254-0664

superiortrashservice.com

Waste Connections

727-572-6800

local.progressivewaste.com/Pinellas

Waste Management

727-572-8779

wm.com

Waste Pro

727-452-5278

wasteprousa.com/office/clearwater

Household chemicals and electronics

Pinellas County offers two free options for residents to dispose of unwanted household chemicals and electronics:

Household Electronics And Chemical Collection Center (HEC₃)

Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

2855 109th Ave. N, St. Petersburg

pinellascounty.org/hec3

Mobile collection events

Select Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/mobileoptions

What to bring

Automotive products

- Oils and antifreeze (Limit: 5 gallons)
- Gasoline and diesel (Limit: five 5 gallon containers)

Batteries (tape terminals)

- Single-use batteries go in trash
- All others are accepted

Electronics accepted

- Cellphones
- Computers, laptops, and monitors (Limit: 5)
- Cordless electronics (with nonremovable, rechargeable batteries)
- TVs - must be whole (Limit: 6)

Household chemicals

- Adhesives/epoxies
- Aerosols
- Cleaners
- Cooking oil

Lawn and garden chemicals

- Pesticides/herbicides
- Fertilizers
- Sprayers

Mercury-containing devices

- Thermometers
- Thermostats
- Fluorescent bulbs (Limit: 12)

Paint products

- Paints/stains
- Solvents

(Limit: 20 one-gallon, 5 five-gallon)

Pool and spa products

- Chlorine
- Muriatic acid
- Cleaners/clarifiers

Signal flares

- Marine
- Road

What not to bring

- Appliances
- Fire extinguishers
- All other electronics (including printers, stereos, DVD players, speakers)
- Medicine and sharps
- Tanks (including propane tanks over 16oz., oxygen tanks, helium tanks)

Visit pinellascounty.org/wheredoesitgo to find out what to do with these items.

Going beyond the text activity: Household chemicals

Many of the chemical products that we use in and around our homes can be hazardous to our health and our environment if they are not properly used, stored and disposed of. Using the information above as a guide, find five examples of potentially hazardous products in your home. Next, research nontoxic alternatives using the EPA's Safer Choice website at epa.gov/saferchoice. Write an editorial or a letter to the editor urging consumers to choose products that are safer for human health and the environment. Use the editorials and letters to the editor in the **Tampa Bay Times** or at tampabay.com/opinion/ as models.

Florida Standards: HE.612.B.5.1; SS.4.C.2.1; SS.5.C.2.5; LAFS.512.L.1.2; LAFS.512.RF.4.4; LAFS.512.RI.1.2; LAFS.512.RI.1.3; LAFS.512.RI.2.5; LAFS.512.RI.3.7; LAFS.512.RI.3.9; LAFS.512.SL.1.1; LAFS.512.SL.1.2; LAFS.512.SL.1.3; LAFS.512.SL.2.4; LAFS.512.W.1.2; LAFS.512.W.2.4; LAFS.512.W.3.7

Free mulch

More than 270,000 tons of yard waste is turned into mulch each year in Pinellas County. Mulch saves water, prevents erosion, protects plants and reduces weeds.

Instead of buying mulch, get it for free! Free mulch is available to Pinellas County residents at the sites below – just bring a pitchfork or shovel and take as much as you need.

For pickup truck or trailer loads, be sure to come prepared with a tarp or vehicle cover to keep your mulch load secured, as required by law.

For more information, visit pinellascounty.org/mulch.

Free mulch pickup locations

A.L. Anderson Park

39699 U.S. 19 N, Tarpon Springs
727-464-7500

Bicentennial Park

East of 565 Tom Stuart Causeway
Madeira Beach
727-543-8154

John Chesnut Sr. Park

2200 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor
727-464-7500

St. Petersburg recycling/brush sites

- 1000 62nd Ave. N, St. Petersburg
- 7500 26th Ave. N, St. Petersburg
- 2453 20th Ave. N, St. Petersburg
- 2500 26th Ave. S, St. Petersburg
- 4015 Dr. MLK Jr. St. S, St. Petersburg

727-893-7398

Clearwater Solid Waste Facility

1701 N Hercules Ave., Clearwater
727-562-4920

Cypress Forest Recreation Center

200 feet north of 650 Pine Ave. N, Oldsmar
813-749-1135

Gulfport Neighborhood Center

1617 49th St. S, Gulfport
727-893-1089

Lake Haven Recycling Center

810 Lake Haven Road, Dunedin
727-298-3215

Pinellas County Solid Waste

3095 114th Ave. N, St. Petersburg
727-464-7500

Pinellas County HEC₃

2855 109th Ave. N, St. Petersburg
727-464-7500

Starkey Road Drop-off Recycling Center

1551 Starkey Road, Largo
727-587-6760

Walsingham Park

12615 102nd Ave. N, Largo
727-464-7500

Waste Management Brush Site

12950 40th St. N, Pinellas Park
727-369-0690

Composting activity

Composting occurs when organic waste such as food or plant materials are broken down. This process takes place in the presence of air (aerobic) and is facilitated by beneficial microorganisms.

The end result of composting is a dark, nutrient-rich material called humus, which can be used in gardening to build healthy soil and ensure better plant growth.

Composting is an environmentally sound way of reducing the amount of yard and food waste that is landfilled or incinerated. Adding compost to a garden reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides and returns valuable nutrients to the soil. Food waste should not be put in the county's yard waste collection.

Learn more about composting at sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/sarasota/natural-resources/waste-reduction/composting.

Use the contact information on Page 8 to find out if your city has a home composting program.

Classroom activity: Compost in a bucket

Materials needed

- 5-gallon bucket with lid
- Trowel or spade
- Tarp
- 1 gallon of soil, compost, potting mix or sawdust from untreated wood
- Noncompostable materials (e.g., plastic cups or bottles)
- Water
- Compostable materials: “Greens” (e.g., grass clippings, manure, and kitchen scraps) and “Browns” (e.g., leaves, sawdust, and wood chips)

Procedure

1. With the trowel or spade, chop the food and other organic material into small pieces. The smaller the pieces, the faster the decomposition. Leave some large pieces for comparison.
2. Fill the bucket half full with greens and browns. Layer and mix as you go. Include noncompostable items in the layers as well. Add water as needed to keep the pile moist. Record the items that you add to the bucket.
3. Add about 1 gallon of soil, compost, potting mix or sawdust to the bucket. The bucket should not be more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Keep the material moist but not completely wet.
4. Individually, write down your predictions about what will happen to the contents of the bucket and the individual items. Will it smell bad? Will it decay? Will things grow in it? What will happen to the large pieces vs. the small pieces? What will happen to the noncompostable items?
5. Every few days, open up the bucket to mix and water the contents. What changes are occurring?

6. After four weeks, examine the contents of the bucket. Try to identify as many items as possible. Record your observations. As a class, discuss the outcome. What happened? How does the outcome compare to the predictions made at the start of the experiment? Using the video examples on tampabay.com and on the Resources page at tampabay.com/nie as models, create a video presentation about your experiment and results to share with your school.

Adapted from: “Compost in a Bucket,” *Do The Rot Thing: A Teacher’s Guide to Compost Activities*, Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Additional sources University of Florida IFAS Extension

Florida Standards: SC.512.N.1.1; SC.612.CSCC.1.3; SS.4.C.2.1; SS.5.C.2.5; LAFS.512.L.1.2; LAFS.512.RF.4.4; LAFS.512.RI.1.2; LAFS.512.RI.1.3; LAFS.512.RI.2.5; LAFS.512.RI.3.7; LAFS.512.RI.3.9; LAFS.512.SL.1.1; LAFS.512.SL.1.2; LAFS.512.SL.1.3; LAFS.512.SL.2.4; LAFS.512.W.1.2; LAFS.512.W.2.4; LAFS.512.W.3.7

What do I do with old batteries?

Never place batteries in your recycling bin.

1. **Alkaline:** Non-rechargeable household batteries such as AA, C, D, 9-volt should be placed in your **trash**.
2. **All others:** Lithium, Li-ion, lead acid, rechargeable, button cell, etc. should be taken to a battery recycling drop-off location.

Visit pinellascounty.org/wheredoesitgo and search for “batteries” to find a drop-off location near you.

Contact Pinellas County Department of Solid Waste

pinellascounty.org/recycle (live chat available)
727-464-7500
recycle@pinellascounty.org

About NIE

The Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program (NIE) is a cooperative effort between schools and the Times Publishing Co. to encourage the use of newspapers in print and electronic form as educational resources — a living textbook. Our educational resources fall into the category of informational text, a type of nonfiction text. The primary purpose of informational text is to convey information about the natural or social world.

NIE serves educators, students and families by providing schools with class sets of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Tampa Bay Times* plus award-winning original educational publications, teacher guides, lesson plans, educator workshops and many more resources — all at no cost to schools, teachers or families.

In 2019-2020, NIE provided more than 1.1 million print copies and 10 million digital editions of the *Times* to area classrooms free of charge thanks to our generous subscribers and individual, corporate and foundation sponsors. NIE teaching materials cover a variety of subjects and are aligned to the Florida Standards.

For more information about NIE, visit tampabay.com/nie, call 727-893-8138 or email ordernie@tampabay.com. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/TBTimesNIE. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/TBTNIE.

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Teach with the *Times* and win

Educators, share 100 words about how you used this resource in your classroom for a chance to win a \$15 gift card! Visit tampabay.com/nie for details and to enter.

Florida Standards

This publication and its activities incorporate the following Florida Standards for elementary, middle and high school students.

Health: HE.612.B.5.1 **Language Arts:** LAFS.512.L.1.2; LAFS.512.RF.4.4; LAFS.512.RI.1.2; LAFS.512.RI.1.3; LAFS.512.L.2.3; LAFS.512.RI.2.5; LAFS.512.RI.2.6; LAFS.512.L.3.4; LAFS.512.RF.3.3; LAFS.512.RI.3.7; LAFS.512.RI.3.9; LAFS.512.RF.4.4; LAFS.512.RI.1.2; LAFS.512.RI.1.3; LAFS.512.RI.2.4; LAFS.512.RI.2.5; LAFS.512.SL.1.1; LAFS.512.SL.1.2; LAFS.512.SL.1.3; LAFS.512.SL.2.4; LAFS.512.W.1.2; LAFS.512.W.2.4; LAFS.512.W.3.7; LAFS.512.RI.3.8; LAFS.512.RI.3.9 **Science:** SC.4.L.17.4; SC.912.L.17.17; SC.512.N.1.1; SC.612.CS-CC.1.3 **Social Studies:** SS.4.C.2.1; SS.5.C.2.5