



# McLeod County Solid Waste Management

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May 4<sup>th</sup> , 2015

Dear McLeod County Recycling Customer:

Delivered to your residence with this information is a new (35, 65, 95) gallon recycling cart. The carts will be emptied by fully automated trucks and will provide residents with a clean and convenient method of recycling. Each cart has been assigned to your specific address by serial number.

To use your new recycling cart, place all of your recyclables together in the cart. No more sorting required. Make sure to place your cart at your curb or alley prior to 6 a.m. on your recycling day. Your recycling collection day will not change but will be switching from weekly to every other week collection. Each residence within the municipalities of McLeod County will have their pickup week designated on the enclosed calendar.

Stop using your blue bins. You may keep and reuse your blue bin for storage, to carry your recycling to your cart, or you may recycle it in your new recycling cart.

If you do not currently recycle, now is an easy time to start. McLeod County Solid Waste's goal is to divert more recyclable items from the trash by making it easier for residents to recycle.

To learn more about the fully automated single-sort recycling system, please refer to the "Frequently Asked Questions" beginning on Page 2.

If you have further questions, please contact McLeod County Solid Waste at 320-484-4300 or 1-800-335-0575.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What does "fully automated truck" and "single-sort recycling system" mean?

Answer: Fully automated truck means a recycling truck that is operated by one person (operator). By utilizing a series of switches, the operator extends the clam that grabs the cart, dumps or "tips" the cart into the truck box and then sets the empty cart back onto the ground. The clam cannot pickup items sitting outside of the 95-gallon cart. All recycling items must be inside the cart and the cart cannot be overflowing. The lid must be closed. The operator does not leave the recycling truck. Single sort recycling means all recycling products can be placed together in the 95-gallon cart, no sorting or bagging is required.

Question: When can I start using the (35,65,95)-gallon cart?

Answer: As soon as you receive it.

Question: Will my recycling collection day change?

Answer: Your recycling collection day will **not** change but you may see a change in the pickup time.

Question: Will recycling collection remain weekly?

Answer: No. Your recycling will now be picked up every other week. Please refer to the enclosed 2015-2016 Single Sort Recycling Calendar. Post this calendar for reference and remember that it covers this year and next year as well.

Question: Will the new automated single-sort recycling system have any effect on refuse collection or Compost collection?

Answer: No. The refuse and compost collection systems will stay the same. Do not place yard waste or any type of brush in your recycling cart.

Question: Where should I place the cart on collection days?

Answer: Prior to 6 a.m. on collection day. Place the cart with the handle towards the house and the arrows on the lid should be pointing toward the street or alley. Your cart should be on a flat surface and placed at least 4 feet from all other obstacles such as other carts, garages, trees, mailboxes, poles, vehicles or other obstructions.

Question: What if there is a snow bank?

Answer: If your cart will not fit in your driveway opening, you will need to clear snow and ice from around the base of the recycling cart of approximately 4 feet. Carts cannot be placed on top of the snow bank or in the street. Improperly placed carts will not be emptied. Carts stuck in snow and/or ice will not be emptied.

Question: Should I mark or label the cart?

Answer: No. It is not necessary to mark the cart. The cart has a serial number that identifies the cart and your address. This information will be kept on file with West Central Sanitation.

Question: What if I *miss* my recycling collection?

Answer: You will have to wait until your next scheduled pickup in two weeks or you will need to bring your recycling to one of the recycling drop off locations located throughout McLeod County. For the locations of the Drop Off site please refer to our web site at [www.co.mcleod.mn.us](http://www.co.mcleod.mn.us).

Question: Can I get a smaller cart?

Answer: Yes after a year of having your current size of recycling cart.

Question: Who repairs and maintains the cart?

Answer: If the cart is damaged as a result of normal wear and tear (e.g. broken lid, wheel cracked cart, etc.) it will be repaired or replaced by West Central Sanitation at no charge. General cleaning of the cart is the responsibility of the resident.

Question: What happens if my cart is damaged or is missing?

Answer: If your cart is damaged or missing, call McLeod County Solid Waste at 320-484-4300 or 1-800-335-0575. McLeod County Solid Waste will make arrangements to have your cart repaired.

Question: I don't have room in my garage to store the recycling cart. Can I leave it outside?

Answer: Yes. You may place it anywhere on your property. Make sure to close the lid. This will prevent recyclables from blowing out of the cart and also keeps rain and snow from accumulating inside it.

Question: If I move, do I take the recycling cart with me?

Answer: No. The recycling cart is the property of the West Central Sanitation & McLeod County Solid Waste. Do not take it with you when you move. The cart has been assigned to a specific property using a serial number.

Question: What should I do with the blue recycling bin that I used previously for recycling pickup?

Answer: You can keep the blue recycling bin for re-use at your residence. It can be used to store or carry your recycling from your house to the cart. If you no longer want the bin, you may recycle it in your recycling cart. There is no cash refund for returned bins.

Question: What items can be placed in the recycling cart?

Answer: Paper & cardboard, plastic (#1 - #7), glass, cartons, aluminum and tin. There is a lid label that will provide you with guidance.

Paper & Cardboard items include boxboard (cereal, cake and cracker boxes), egg cartons, shoe boxes, pop and beer cases, paper milk cartons, juice boxes, broth and other paper cartons, newspaper and all inserts, magazines, catalogs, telephone books, junk mail, brown paper bags, paperback books, shredded paper (contained in a closed paper bag) and corrugated cardboard, hard cover books, construction paper, blueprints, paper folders, freezer cartons, pizza boxes, and juice boxes. **Unacceptable:** gift wrapping paper, styrofoam plates, waxed paper, styrofoam, bubble wrap, diapers, cigarette butts, carbon paper, and dirty paper towels/tissues/paper napkins.

Plastic items with a recycling symbol #1 - #7. Milk jugs, bottles, plastic food containers, tubs, yogurt cups, margarine and whip cream tubs. All items shall be thoroughly rinsed. Covers and labels do not need to be removed.

**Unacceptable:** Plastic bags, motor oil or anti-freeze containers and paint pails.

Glass bottles and jars including green, brown and clear glass. All items shall be thoroughly rinsed. Remove covers. Labels do not need to be removed. **Unacceptable:** Window glass, plate glass, mirrors, drinking glasses, dishes, light bulbs or ceramics.

Aluminum and bimetal (tin and steel) includes vegetable, soup or beverage cans, pie tins and foil. All items shall be thoroughly rinsed. **Unacceptable:** empty paint or aerosol cans.

Question: What items can NOT be placed in my recycling cart?

Answer: Yard waste, garbage, electronics, paint, hazardous materials or chemicals, tires, dirt, concrete, asphalt shingles, food scraps, animal feces, cat litter, propane or helium tanks and syringes.

Question: Can I put my recyclables into plastic bags and then place it into the cart?

Answer: No. Do not place your recyclables in plastic bags before depositing into your cart.

Note: McLeod County Solid Waste, located at 1065 5<sup>th</sup> Ave SE Hutchinson, and other retailers accept plastic shopping bags for recycling. Do not place these in your recycling cart for collection.

Question: What should I do if my recycling does not fit in the cart?

Answer: All recyclables must fit inside the cart with the lid closed. Recyclable items sitting outside the cart will not be picked up. If you have more recyclables than what will fit, you should:

- Crush your cans, plastic bottles and jugs
- Save them for your next collection day
- Ask a neighbor if they have extra room in their cart for your recyclables
- Bring them to one of our drop off locations throughout McLeod County. For locations please refer to our web site at [www.co.mcleod.mn.us](http://www.co.mcleod.mn.us)

Question: What if my recyclables were not collected on my recycling day or if some items were left behind?

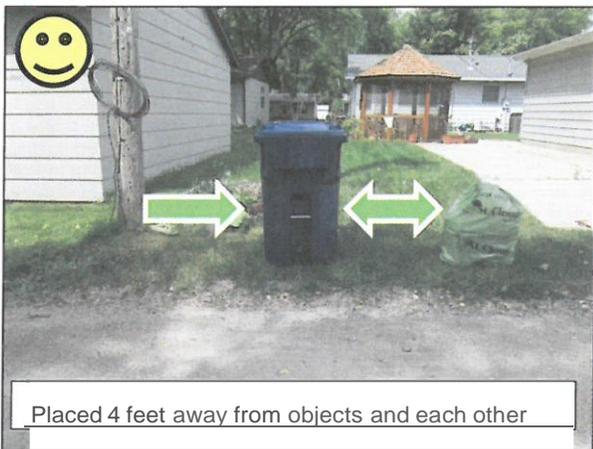
Answer: Your recycling cart needs to be placed out for collection prior to 6 a.m. on your collection day or the night before collection. The cart shall be placed 4 feet away from other obstacles with the handle facing toward the house. Carts not set out properly or set out late will not be collected until your next scheduled collection. By switching to fully automated recycling trucks, the trucks now will have the capacity to capture and transmit collection data such as the date and time your cart was emptied. It also can indicate why your cart was not emptied i.e. it contained garbage, was not set out for collection properly or the cart was not set out in time for collection.

If you have further questions, please contact McLeod County Solid Waste at 320-484-4300 or 1-800-335-0575.

YES

SINGLE SORT RECYCLING

NO



Photos are **EXAMPLES** of proper spacing **ONLY**. They do not reflect actual McLeod County/City programs.