

CHICAGO RECYCLING GUIDE: A-Z

What Can and Cannot be Recycling in Chicago's Blue Cart and Drop-off Center Program

Material	Is Material accepted in Chicago's Blue Cart Program or at Recycling Drop-Off Centers?	Alternative Recycling Outlet	Mail or Drop-Off Program	Address	Phone	Website	Details and/or Restrictions
A							
Aerosol cans	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Must be empty
Aluminum	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Accepted aluminum includes cans, clean tin foil, pie tins.
Appliances (Household)	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Salvation Army 2) Recycling Information Center	1) NA 2) 1-800-YES-1-CAN	1) www.salvationarmy.com 2) http://www.aham.org/consumer/ht/d/sp/i/47286/pid/47286	1) Working appliances only 2) Call the Recycling Information Center for nearby metal recycling facilities that accept appliances
B							
Baby bottles (plastic or glass)	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Goodwill 2) Salvation Army	NA	1) www.goodwill.com 2) www.salvationarmy.com	NA
Batteries (alkaline)	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Alkaline batteries should be disposed of in regular refuse
Batteries (rechargeable)	No	Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility	Drop Off	1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642	NA	www.cityofchicago.org/hccrf	Hours: Tu 7-noon; Th 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am - 3 pm More locations listed at www.call2recycle.org.
Batteries (lead acid)	No	Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility	Drop Off	1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642	NA	www.cityofchicago.org/hccrf	Hours: Tu 7-noon; Th 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am - 3 pm
Bicycles	No	Working Bikes Cooperative	Drop Off	2434 S. Western Ave. Chicago IL 60608	773-847-5440	www.workingbikes.org	Hours: Mon-Sat noon-5pm
Books (paperback)	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	NA
Books (hard cover)	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Goodwill 2) Salvation Army 3) Reading Tree: Books for Charity	NA	1) www.goodwill.com 2) www.salvationarmy.com 3) www.readingtree.org	NA
Bras	No	The Bra Recyclers	Drop Off and Mail	3317 S. Higley Rd, Ste 114-441, Gilbert, AZ 85297	480-988-2283	http://brarecycling.com	Should be in good condition
Brown Paper Bags	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	NA
Bubble Wrap	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Earth911.com	NA	www.earth911.com	NA
Building Materials	No	The ReBuilding Exchange	Drop Off	3335 W. 47th St., Chicago IL 60632	773-847-3761	http://www.rebuildingexchange.org/	Email info@rebuildingexchange.org to see if they'll accept your materials
C							
Candy wrappers	No	TerraCycle	Mail	NA	NA	www.terracecycle.com	Must join a "brigade" to get mailing details
Car batteries	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Earth911.com	NA	www.earth911.com	Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you
Cardboard	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	NA
Carpet (nylon)	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Carpet Recovery 2) Shaw Carpet	NA	1) www.carpetrecovery.org 2) shawfloors.com/about-shaw/carpet-recycling	1) NA 2) Any carpet (500sq yards or more) with EcoWorx backing will be collected, transported and recycled for free, regardless if its being replaced with Shaw Carpet. Shaw Carpet will collect, transport and recycle any type of carpet (7500sq yards or more) if it is being replaced by a Shaw product, for free.
CDs	No	Multiple	Drop Off and Mail	Earth911.com	NA	www.earth911.com	NA
Cell phones	No	Multiple	Drop Off and Mail	1) Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility (1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642) 2) Earth911.com	NA	1) www.cityofchicago.org/hccrf 2) www.earth911.com	1) Hours: Tu 7-noon; Th 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am - 3 pm 2) Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you
Chip Bags	No	TerraCycle	Mail	NA	NA	www.terracecycle.com	Must join a "brigade" to get mailing details
Christmas/string lights	No	Multiple	Drop Off and Mail	Earth911.com	NA	www.earth911.com	Search for "string lights"
Cleaning Products (bleach, drain cleaner, and other harsh cleaners)	No	Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility	Drop Off	1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642	NA	www.cityofchicago.org/hccrf	Hours: Tu 7-noon; Th 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am - 3 pm
Clothing	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Goodwill 2) Salvation Army 3) Gaia 4) USAgain	NA	1) www.goodwill.com 2) www.salvationarmy.com 3) http://www.gaia-movement.org/TextPage.asp?TxtID=390&SubMenuItemID=103&MenuItemID=47 4) http://www.usagain.com/	NA
Compact Florescent Lightbulbs (CFLs)	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility (1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642) 2) Home Depot 3) Ikea 4) True Value	NA	1) www.cityofchicago.org/hccrf 2) www.homedepot.com 3) www.ikea.com 4) www.truevalue.com 5) www.acehardware.com	1) Hours: Tu 7-noon; Th 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am - 3 pm 2) NA 3) NA 4) NA 5) NA

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Computer	No	Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility	Drop Off	1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642	NA	www.cityofchicago.org/hccrf	Hours: Tu 7-noon; Th 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am - 3 pm
Construction Debris	No	Recycling Systems Incorporated	Drop Off	3152 South California Avenue, Chicago, IL 60608	NA	www.recyclingsystemsinc.com	Call for a quote (773-579-0100). Construction debris can also be posted on Craigslist or the Construction Material Depot (www.cmdepot.com)
Corks	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Broadway Cellars (5900 N. Broadway) 2) Whole Foods	NA	1) NA 2) www.wholefoods.com	1) NA 2) Visit website to find the nearest location
Crayons (broken)	No	Crazy Crayons	Mail	NA	NA	www.crazycrayons.com	Only accept crayons made in the United States
D							
Diapers (cloth)	No	Multiple	NA	1) Craigslist 2) FreeCycle	NA	1) www.chicago.craigslist.org 2) www.freecycle.org	Consider selling on Craigslist or FreeCycle
Diapers (disposable)	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Disposal diapers should be thrown away
Denim	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Goodwill 2) Salvation Army	NA	1) www.goodwill.com 2) www.salvationarmy.com	NA
Drink Pouches	No	TerraCycle	Mail	NA	NA	www.terracycle.com	Must join a "brigade" to get mailing details
DVDs	No	Multiple	Mail	Earth911.com	NA	www.earth911.com	Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you
E							
Envelopes (including plastic windows)	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	NA
Envelopes [Tyvek, FedEx, etc.]	No	Multiple	Drop Off and Mail	Earth911.com	NA	www.earth911.com	Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you
Eyeglasses	No	Multiple	Drop Off and Mail	1) Earth911.com 2) Lions Club International	NA	1) www.earth911.com 2) http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/our-work/sightprograms/eyeglass-recycling/how-you-can-help.php	1) Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you 2) Check website for the location nearest you
F							
Feminine Hygiene Products	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	1) www.gladrags.com 2) www.divacup.com	Disposable feminine hygiene products should be thrown away. Explore the suggested websites for reusable alternatives.
Food containers	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	Accepted plastics include #1-5, 7 (not #6)
Freezers	No	ComEd	NA	NA	1-888-806-227	https://www.comed.com/sites/homesavings/pages/appliancerecycling.aspx	ComEd is offering \$35 per freezer or refrigerator. Offer only available for working appliances.
Furniture	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Goodwill 2) Salvation Army	NA	1) www.goodwill.com 2) www.salvationarmy.com	NA
G							
Gift cards, hotel keys	No	Multiple	1) Mail 2) Drop Off	1) Earthworks 2) Best Buy	NA	1) www.earthworkssystem.com 2) www.bestbuy.com/recycling	1) NA 2) Best Buy has recycling kiosks for gift cards
Glass bottles and jars	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	Please remove lids from glass bottles and jars before recycling
Glasses (drinkware and dishware)	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Goodwill 2) Salvation Army	NA	1) www.goodwill.com 2) www.salvationarmy.com	Broken glasses (drinkware) and dishes should be thrown away
Grass	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Compost yard waste, like grass clippings
H							
Household Appliances	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Salvation Army 2) Recycling Information Center	1) NA 2) 1-800-YES-1-CAN	1) www.salvationarmy.com 2) http://www.aham.org/consumer/ht/d/sp/i/47286/pid/47286	1) Working appliances only 2) Call the Recycling Information Center for nearby metal recycling facilities that accept appliances
Hangers	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Earth911.com	NA	www.earth911.com	Many dry cleaners only accept hangers from their store, check before dropping off
I							
Ink Cartridges	No	Multiple	Drop Off and Mail	Earth911.com	NA	www.earth911.com	Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you
iPods	No	Multiple	Drop Off and Mail	Earth911.com	NA	www.earth911.com	Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you
J							
Junk mail	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	NA
K							
Keys	No	Keys for Kindness	Mail	PO Box 201, Pearl River NY, 10965	NA	www.keystorkindness.com	NA
Kitty litter	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Kitty litter should be thrown away
L							
Linens	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Goodwill 2) Salvation Army	NA	1) www.goodwill.com 2) www.salvationarmy.com	NA
M							
Magazines & catalogs	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	NA

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Make-up containers	No	Origins	Drop Off	1) 111 N. State St, Chicago IL 2) 845 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL	1) 312-781-3010 2) 312-335-7911	www.origins.com	NA
Mattress and box spring	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Goodwill 2) Salvation Army	NA	1) www.goodwill.com 2) www.salvationarmy.com	NA
Medicine (prescription and over-the-counter)	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Chicago Police Area Headquarters: a) 5101 S. Wentworth Ave., Chicago IL 60609 b) 727 E. 111th St., Chicago IL 60628 c) 2452 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago IL 60618 d) 3151 W. Harrison St., Chicago IL 60612 e) 5555 W. Grand Ave., Chicago IL 60639 2) Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility (1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642)	NA	1) NA 2) www.cityofchicago.org/hccrf	1) Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week 2) Hours: Tu 7-noon; Th 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am - 3 pm
Motor oil	No	Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility	Drop Off	1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642	NA	www.cityofchicago.org/hccrf	Hours: Tu 7-noon; Th 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am - 3 pm
MP3 players	No	Multiple	Drop Off and Mail	Earth911.com	NA	www.earth911.com	Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you
N							
Newspapers	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	NA
Newspaper sleeves	No	Multiple	Drop Off	NA	NA	NA	Plastic bags, including newspaper sleeves, should be brought to your grocery store or pharmacy for recycling
Notebooks	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	If possible, remove metal spiral binding
O							
Office paper	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	NA
P							
Paint (oil based only)	No	Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility	Drop Off	1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642	NA	www.cityofchicago.org/hccrf	Hours: Tu 7-noon; Th 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am - 3 pm
Paint (latex)	No	Earth Paints Collection Systems	Drop Off	Multiple	NA	www.earthpaintscs.com	Check their website for recycling fees
Paper towels (used)	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Used paper towels should be thrown away. If lightly used, they can be composted.
Paper towel rolls	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	NA
Pens and pencils	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Broken or old pens and pencils should be thrown away
Pesticides	No	Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility	Drop Off	1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642	NA	www.cityofchicago.org/hccrf	Hours: Tu 7-noon; Th 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am - 3 pm
Phone books	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	NA
Phones (including cordless)	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Goodwill 2) Salvation Army	NA	1) www.goodwill.com 2) www.salvationarmy.com	Donate only working phones. Broken phones should be thrown away.
Photographs	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Unwanted photographs should be thrown away.
Plastics #1-5, 7	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	NA
Plastic #6 or unnumbered	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	#6 plastics and unnumbered plastics should be thrown away.
Plastic Bags (for residents)	No	Multiple	Drop Off	PlasticBagRecycling.org	NA	http://www.plasticbagrecycling.org/01.0/s01.1	Plastic shopping bags can be recycled at grocery stores, pharmacy's and many big box retailers
Plastic Bags (for businesses)	No	NA	Drop Off and Mail	1) PlasticBagRecycling.org 2) Better Containers, 530 Hyde Park, Hillside, IL 60162 3) G2 Revolution, 650 E. Algonquin Road, Suite 401, Schaumburg, IL 60173-3846	1) NA 2) 800-831-6049 3) 847.925.9800	1) http://www.plasticbagrecycling.org/01.0/s01.1.php 2) http://www.bettercontainers.com/ 3) http://www.g2rev.com/	NA
Plastic Bottle Caps	Yes (see notes)	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org (see notes: http://www.aveda.com/aboutaveda/caps.mp#ngextredir=1)	Bottle caps are only recyclable at some of the city's sorting facilities. To ensure caps are recycled, take them to a nearby Aveda store.
Plastic Storage Bags and Plastic Wrap	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Plastic storage bags and wrap should be thrown away after use
Pots and pans	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Goodwill 2) Salvation Army	NA	1) www.goodwill.com 2) www.salvationarmy.com	NA
Q							
Qtips	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Qtips and other health products should be thrown away after use.

Material	Is Material accepted in Chicago's Blue Cart Program or at Recycling Drop-Off Centers?	Alternative Recycling Outlet	Mail or Drop-Off Program	Address	Phone	Website	Details and/or Restrictions
R							
Razors	No	Preserve Products	Mail	NA	NA	www.preserveproducts.com	Purchase Preserve razors and mail back later. The handles are made from recycled #5 plastic and made into new products.
Refrigerators	No	ComEd	NA	NA	1-888-806-227	https://www.comed.com/sites/homesavings/pages/appliancerecycling.aspx	ComEd is offering \$35 per freezer or refrigerator. Offer only available for working appliances.
Reusable Bags	No	ChicoBag	Mail	C/O Zero Waste Program, 349 Huss Drive, Chico, CA 95928	NA	http://www.chicobag.com/repurposing_program.aspx	For broken or no longer usable reusable bags
Rugs	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Goodwill 2) Salvation Army	NA	1) www.goodwill.com 2) www.salvationarmy.com	NA
S							
Sanitary products	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Sanitary products, like wipes, feminine products, diapers and incontinence pads, facial and toilet tissue, should be thrown away after use.
Shoes	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Goodwill 2) Salvation Army 3) Soles4Souls	NA	1) www.goodwill.com 2) www.salvationarmy.com 3) www.soles4souls.org	NA
Shopping bags (paper)	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	NA
Shopping bags (plastic)	No	Multiple	Drop Off	NA	NA	NA	All Chicago grocery stores are required to accept plastic shopping bags for recycling. Bags from other stores are also accepted.
Silverware (metal)	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Goodwill 2) Salvation Army	NA	1) www.goodwill.com 2) www.salvationarmy.com	NA
Silverware (plastic)	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Plastic silverware can be rinsed and reused, or thrown away after use
Snackbag liners	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Plastic snackbag liners should be thrown away
Spray paint (empty)	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	NA
Spray paint (not empty)	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Consider donating unused spray paint to a school or local art program
Steel cans	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	NA
Styrofoam (#6 Foam)	No	Dart	Drop Off	310 Evergreen Drive, North Aurora, IL	NA	http://www.dart.biz/web/environ.nsf/pages/	Accept all foam except packing peanuts Check with your closest pack-and-ship store (Mailboxes Etc., UPS) to drop off
T							
Televisions (working or broken; LCD, Plasma, and CRT)	No	Household Chemicals & Computer Recycling Facility	Drop Off	1150 N. North Branch St., Chicago IL 60642	NA	www.cityofchicago.org/hccrf	Hours: Tuesday 7am-noon; Thursdays 2-7pm, 1st Saturday of the month 8am-3pm
Tennis balls	No	Rebounces	Mail	NA	NA	www.rebounces.com	NA
Text Books	No	Reading Tree: Books for Charity	Drop Off	NA	NA	http://www.readingtree.org/content.aspx?id=1	NA
Textiles (household)	No	USAgain	Drop Off	NA	NA	http://www.usagain.com/	NA
Tires	No	Multiple	Drop Off	Earth911.com	NA	www.earth911.com	Some locations may charge per tire -call before making the trip
Toilet paper roll	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	NA
Toothbrush	No	Preserve Products	Mail			www.preserveproducts.com	Purchase Preserve toothbrushes and mail back later. The handles are made from recycled yogurt containers and made into new products
Toys	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Goodwill 2) Salvation Army	NA	1) www.goodwill.com 2) www.salvationarmy.com	NA
U							
Umbrellas	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Goodwill 2) Salvation Army	NA	1) www.goodwill.com 2) www.salvationarmy.com	Working umbrellas only
V							
Video tapes	No	Multiple	Drop Off and Mail	Earth911.com	NA	www.earth911.com	Check Earth911.com for the location nearest to you
Vehicles	No	Multiple	Drop off	Earth911.com	NA	www.earth911.com	Working vehicles can be donated
W							
Waterbottles (reusable)	No	Multiple	Drop Off	1) Goodwill 2) Salvation Army	NA	1) www.goodwill.com 2) www.salvationarmy.com	NA
Wipes and sponges	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Wipes and sponges should be thrown away after use
Wrapping paper	Yes	NA	NA	NA	NA	www.chicagorecycles.org	Be sure to remove bows, tags, and ribbon
Z							
Zippered bags	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Zippered bags can be reused and thrown away
Zippers	No	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Zippers should be thrown away