

Quarterly Trash & Recycling Service Updates

JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 2019

860-429-3333

<http://www.mansfieldct.gov/trash>

TRASH & RECYCLING SERVICE CHANGES

The week of New Year's– all trash and recycling collection days will be one day later.

On the www.mansfieldct.gov/trash website you can access a 2019 trash service calendar. Select “2019 Collection Schedule” on the “Residential Trash/Recycling Collection” page.

IN CASE OF SNOWY WEATHER

If you have not received this information electronically, then you are not signed up to receive e-mail notification in the event of inclement weather that affects trash service. To be informed of trash service changes go to www.mansfieldct.gov. Click on the E-mail notifications tab. Type in your e-mail address and select the Trash Service box.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Trees are not collected curbside. Instead, bring your tree to the transfer station where it will eventually be turned into wood chips. *No charge.*

BRING YOUR OWN BAG ORDINANCE

Coming soon: Town Council's review of an ordinance banning plastic checkout bags, called the Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance. If the ordinance passes, Mansfield businesses will no longer be allowed to use plastic bags at checkout. To read the draft ordinance, visit www.mansfieldct.gov/reusable-bags.



FREE REUSABLE BAGS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SENIOR CENTER

KEEP PLASTIC BAGS, WRAP, FILM OUT OF THE RECYCLE CONTAINER

Plastic bags are plastic so they must be recyclable, right? They are, but not at the curb because they'll damage recycling equipment. Return them instead to a retailer such as Big Y or Price Chopper, or bring them to the transfer station. At the transfer station and participating retailers the following plastic bags or film will be accepted for recycling (as long as they are clean and dry): *shopping bags, bread bags, newspaper bags, bubble wrap, packaging pillows, dry cleaner bags, and plastic shrink wrap used around cases of bottled water, paper towels, toilet paper and other commodities.* Visit <https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/recycling-bags-and-wraps/plastic-film-education-individuals/learn-whats-recyclable/> for more information on what can be recycled.

REPAIR YOUR TREASURES

What do you do with a dress that has a tear or a lamp that no longer works? Bring it to the **Repair Café** on Saturday, **January 12, 2019 from 10 am to 2 pm**, (snow date - January 19) at the First Congregational Church, 199 Valley Street, Willimantic. The Repair Café is a FREE event open to the public. Skilled volunteers will repair – or teach you to repair – your broken item.

PAPER SHREDDING, APRIL 13, 2019

Bring your sensitive documents to be shredded on-site to the transfer station on Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 9 am to 12 pm. Charge: \$3.00 per banker's box.

RECYCLING – WHAT’S IN, WHAT’S OUT

You may have heard that it is now harder to market those blue bin recyclable items. China was the primary buyer of paper and plastics from the United States, but has since stopped imports of these recyclables due to quality issues. Contributing to poor quality is that a whole lot more than what can *actually* be recycled is ending up in the blue bin. This is causing facilities like Willimantic Waste Paper, where Mansfield’s recyclables are sent, to spend a lot of time and money removing items that cannot be marketed. Instead they end up as trash. Blue bin recyclables (also referred to as “single-stream” or “mixed” recycling) includes only certain material types:

MATERIAL TYPE	INCLUDES/EXAMPLES	DOES NOT INCLUDE
PAPER	Newspaper Office paper Junk mail Magazines Paper packing material	Paper plates Paper coffee cups Napkins Paper towels Shredded paper
CARDBOARD	Corrugated cardboard Paperboard like a cereal box Paper towel tubes Pizza boxes Cardboard laundry detergent box	Styrofoam packing material Air pillows & bubble wrap Plastic liners Slices of pizza Frozen food containers
METAL FOOD & BEVERAGE CONTAINERS	Pet food cans Soup cans Aluminum foil & trays Soda cans Metal lids	Metal lined cardboard, like a Planter’s peanut container Metal foil top on yogurt container
PLASTIC CONTAINERS	Plastic laundry detergent bottles Milk jugs Shampoo bottles Yogurt containers Plastic solo cups Beverage bottles Plastic lids <u>on</u> the container Take-out containers other than Styrofoam Plastic berry boxes Condiment bottles	Styrofoam products Plastic cutlery Plastic food pouches Toothpaste tubes Toothbrushes Plastic bags Plastic lids <u>off</u> the container Prescription bottles Plastic straws Plastic air pillows Plastic wrappers of any kind
GLASS FOOD & BEVERAGE CONTAINERS	Wine bottles Salsa jars Sauce jars	Ceramic mugs & dishes Drinking glasses Perfume bottles
CARTONS & DRINK BOXES	Milk cartons Orange juice cartons Broth cartons Almond milk cartons	Juice pouches Vegetable pouches Tuna fish pouches Plastic straws

When you put the correct items in your blue bin, you have taken the first step in the manufacturing process displacing the need to extract or mine from the earth – an energy intensive and polluting step. Because recycling is a re-manufacturing process, all products need to be clean and empty.

One common mistake is using the number within a triangle on a plastic item to decide whether it is recyclable or not. We aren’t recycling plastics by number anymore. Instead look at the *container type*. Is it a hard plastic container, a pouch or a bag? Hard or rigid containers, other than Styrofoam, can be recycled. Plastic pouches and tubes are trash. Plastic bags can be recycled, but not in the blue bin. Styrofoam packing material and containers are trash since there is no market for them. Put plastic lids back on the container and they can be recycled. Plastic lids by themselves are too small to be recycled. The same is true for prescription bottles, they are too small to be recycled.

If you aren’t sure what does and does not belong in the recycle bin, use the “How do I get rid of this?” tool by going to www.mansfieldct.gov/trash or contact the Mansfield Recycling by calling 860-429-3333 or e-mailing waltonvd@mansfieldct.org.