

RETAIL TRADE RECYCLING GUIDE

BEST PRACTICES FOR RETAIL TO REDUCE THEIR WASTE AND KEEP VALUABLE MATERIALS OUT OF THE LANDFILL



In addition to the "Commercial Recycling Guide", this guide will help you delve deeper in your industry specifics and help you set up your waste reduction program for success at YOUR business. Please do not hesitate to contact our office with questions or advice.

Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division
Commercial Recycling Specialist
706-613-3512
recycle@accgov.com
accgov.com/recycle



STATION LOCATIONS

THESE ARE RECOMMENDED LOCATIONS TO BE COMPLIANT WITH THE COMMERCIAL RECYCLING ORDINANCE. DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF YOUR BUSINESS, SOME LOCATIONS CAN BE ELIMINATED. YOUR COMMERCIAL RECYCLING SPECIALIST WILL VERIFY ADEQUATE COLLECTION.



Entrance

Your customers should have a place to dispose of their waste as they enter or exit your store. Most of these materials are recyclable.



Register

This can be a small bin to collect receipts and beverage bottles. Depending on how you merchandise, this may be a good spot for CHaRM collection.



Break Room

This site will include collection for staff meal waste as well as any shipping materials. Unless you have additional space for unpacking. This is another good spot for CHaRM collection.

RETAIL ITEMIZED LIST

THE WASTE STREAM FROM RETAIL CAN VARY SLIGHTLY FROM OTHER INDUSTRIES. THINK THROUGH YOUR CUSTOMER FACING, OFFICE, AND BREAKROOM WASTE. REFER TO THE ACC RECYCLABLE ITEMS AND THE CHARM FLYER FOR MORE ACCEPTED ITEMS. YOU CAN ALSO USE THE WASTE SORT CHART TO FULLY ACCESS YOUR SPECIFIC WASTE.



Mixed Recycling

- Receipts
- Cardboard boxes
- Aluminum, glass, steel (tin) containers such as soda cans and soup cans
- Rinsed cleaning supply bottles
- Plastic containers #1-7, including milk jugs, soda and water bottles
- Empty aerosol cans
- Junk mail
- Newspaper and office paper
- Paperback books/magazines
- Clean pizza boxes
- Paper towel and toilet paper cardboard rolls

KEEP IT OUT OF THE RECYCLING BIN

PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP THESE ITEMS OUT OF YOUR MIXED RECYCLING.



**NO
FOOD**



**NO
PLASTIC BAGS,
SHRINK WRAP
OR BUBBLE WRAP**



**NO
STYROFOAM**

KEEP RECYCLING LOOSE, DON'T BAG IT.

If you have to bag your recycling due to collection methods you MUST use a clear bag. If possible, please empty bags into the recycling dumpster.

REDUCE MORE WASTE

ARE YOU READY TO DO MORE? HERE ARE SOME GREAT SUGGESTIONS ON HOW YOU CAN REDUCE EVEN MORE WASTE FROM YOUR BUSINESS.



PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY MIXED RECYCLING IS REQUIRED UNDER THE COMMERCIAL RECYCLING ORDINANCE. ,



Go to
www.accgov.com/CHaRM
for more information
about this resource.

- Plastic packaging wrap and bags
- Broken electronics
- Batteries
- Light bulbs
- Styrofoam
- Ink cartridges
- Paint



Thrift Stores

- Broken/unsellable merchandise
- Old marketing signage
- Old product displays
- Hangers
- Unsellable clothing and shoes

- Purchase products with recycled content. By purchasing products containing recycled content, you are completing the loop that began with, for example, tossing a water bottle in your recycling bin. Remember this with your marketing too and requested recycled-content paper.
- Print double-sided.
- Identify the sources of excess waste. Not only will source reduction help eliminate the need to recycle or divert waste before it even begins, but it will eliminate error and get your team on track to more thoughtful actions that contribute to your overall business practices.
- Consider having your store's own reusable utensils, plates and cups that staff can use instead of using disposable ones.
- TerraCycle.com offers special programs for additional hard-to-recycle items such as make-up, toys, guitar strings, candy wrappers, and more. They will even provide bins for collection.
- Can you ditch plastic shopping bags? Or have your staff ask if they would like a bag instead of automatically bagging it.
- Consider having a conversation with your suppliers or vendors about the way they package their shipments. Maybe they could cut out or cut down on their plastic film wrapping around pallets, or replace packaging peanuts with recyclable paper. Some supplies will back-haul their shipping, check to see if yours does.
- Develop a Sustainable Purchasing Protocol as a requirement for doing business. At a minimum, you can use this protocol to assess new suppliers and materials going forward.
- Share with your customers, business partners, and community that your efforts have been put in motion. This can help maintain the morale to remain responsible and empowered by your environmentally-conscious actions while serving as a tool to educate other on improving their own business practices.

Did you know that Athens-Clarke County Recycling Division offers used bins, signage and stickers and professional advice from our staff at no cost to help you start or improve your recycling program?



iam eco
acc recycling division

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