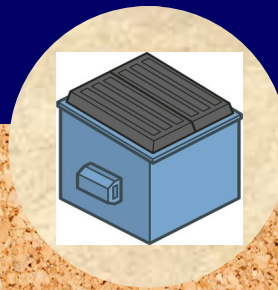


Proper Recycling

Big Blue Bins Rules & Facts

A Guide to Doing it right in Lawrence and Mercer Counties



This program is 100% voluntary and is a public service offered by the County Commissioners and site sponsors to provide recycling opportunities to those living in areas with limited recycling. Residents are not required to use this program. If you are going to use the program, follow the rules. Curbside recycling is the most efficient way to recycle.

Residents and businesses of Ellwood City, Neshannock Township, New Castle, Shenango Township, and Union Township in Lawrence County and Farrell, Hermitage, Greenville, Grove City, and Sharon in Mercer County are required by state and local laws to recycle at their home or place of business. Using the Big Blue Bins does NOT satisfy that requirement.

Only the following materials are collected in the bins: magazines, newspapers, and cardboard. If it is not listed, don't put it in. Period.

Leaving ANY materials, including recyclables, outside of the bins is a crime. This is littering and is clearly defined in the "Scattering Rubbish" sections of the Pennsylvania Crimes and Vehicle codes. The County and/or our partners reserve the right to prosecute alleged violators to the fullest extent of the law.

Placing items not listed as acceptable into the bins is also a crime. It is a violation of the County's Ordinance and Rules and Regulation for Solid Waste Management and the County reserves the right to prosecute alleged violators to the fullest extent of the law. The contamination of recyclables with trash and unacceptable materials is expensive and a major reason behind the changes to local recycling programs. According to industry experts, upwards of 20% of the cost of recycling is used to cover the expenses of removing and processing trash thrown into the recycling bins.

Every bin has a small white sign by the opening that states what belongs in it. Also, every site has at least one larger sign that reiterates the acceptable and unacceptable materials. As the signage indicates, sites are monitored by portable surveillance cameras.

Materials placed in the bins are the property of the county and its collection contractor. Taking items out of the bins is stealing.

The Big Blue Bins are emptied twice a week: Thursday and Sunday nights. Most sites are emptied three times a week during major holidays.



Recycling/Solid Waste Department
724-658-5925
Like us on Facebook!

The county does not receive money for the materials placed in the Big Blue Bins. To have the materials collected, hauled, and processed, costs approximately \$4,400 per bin annually. Money in recycling is made by the recycling centers after the recyclables have been processed and sold, not by the municipalities or haulers taking recyclables there.

Littering is expensive for communities. Abuse of the Big Blue Bins is a waste of tax money. It costs the county more than \$3,000 per month to address the problem, thereby taking away resources that would have been used to recycle more materials such as electronics and paint.

Leaving materials on the ground also:

- Makes the location look unsightly,
- Attracts additional abuse (monkey-see, monkey do),
- Results in additional litter that blows through the neighborhood,
- Means that someone else has to pick it up/throw it away/put it in the bins.

Put yourself in the shoes of the people that live in the neighborhood, clean the site and surrounding area, and the people that care about the program.

BIG BLUE BIN RULES

YES...

Residents Only
Cardboard, Magazines, Newsprint
Close Lids after Use
Flatten Boxes
Keep Our Community Clean
Think of Others, Especially the Neighbors and
People Using the Bins After You

NO...

Plastic Bags
Styrofoam/Polystyrene
Trash
Leaving Anything On the Ground
Scavenging
Parking in Front/Behind the Bins
Anything Not Listed as "YES"

Sites Monitored by Video Surveillance
Violators have been and will be prosecuted



Recycling/Solid Waste Department

724-658-5925

Like us on Facebook!