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Avoiding the Landfill

This guide is intended to find ways to recycle, reuse, and/or dispose of items safely in the La Grange Park area.

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What Can I Recycle?

Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) is La Grange Park's municipal waste hauler. Per their website: LRS operates without owning a landfill. Instead they choose to stay innovative by increasing waste diversion rates and sending significantly less waste to landfills. Below is a list of common items that can be put in the LRS recycling toter. Please check the LRS website for the most current information.

Paper/Cardboard

- Magazines
- Catalogs
- Telephone books
- Brown paper bags
- Cardboard boxes
- Cereal or other food boxes (clean)
- Junk mail & envelopes
- Mixed paper
- Glossy brochures
- Milk, soup, or juice cartons

DO NOT TRY TO RECYCLE THESE PAPER ITEMS:

- Paper plates or boxes dirty with food
- Paper towels, napkins, or tissues
- Shredded paper
- Frozen food boxes (mix of paper & plastic)
- Paper Cups (mix of paper & plastic)
- Waxed paper or cardboard

Metal

- Aluminum Cans
- Aluminum Foil
- Pie Plates & trays
- Steel/Tin food cans & lids
- Clean paint cans & lids
- Empty aerosol cans

DO NOT TRY TO RECYCLE THESE METAL ITEMS:

- Utensils
- Propane Tanks
- Wire Hangers
- Small appliances

Glass

- Bottles or jars (all colors)

DO NOT TRY TO RECYCLE THESE GLASS ITEMS:

- Windows
- Auto glass
- Bakeware
- Ceramics
- Mirrors
- Light Bulbs
- Drinking Glasses

Plastic

- Soda/water bottles (w/ caps)
- Milk Containers
- Toiletry/Beauty-Aid Bottles
- Laundry Detergent Bottles
- Margarine/Butter Tubs (clean)
- Misc. tubs/bottles/jugs

DO NOT TRY TO RECYCLE THESE PLASTIC ITEMS:

- Bags (grocery, snack/chip, cereal, etc.)
- Film, shrink wrap (e.g. Saran wrap)
- Empty motor oil or chemical bottles
- Styrofoam (see below)

Goodwill

Goodwill takes many different new or used items. Search "Goodwill Donation Guidelines" and their website will give a comprehensive list.

Electronics, including LCD screens, can be recycled at Goodwill. See the link below for additional guidelines.

<https://www.amazinggoodwill.com/donating/donor-guidelines>

Goodwill is located in Westchester east of Mariano's off 31st street.

Facebook Marketplace / Craigslist

A great way to get rid of almost anything locally and get paid for it is through Facebook Marketplace or Craigslist.

Appliances

Refrigerators/Appliances:

Many appliance retailers, such as Best Buy, or Abt, will haul away and recycle your appliances if you purchase new from them. Policies vary widely, so verify any charges or restrictions prior to finalizing your decision.

Batteries

Single use batteries (think AA Energizer) can't be easily recycled. In some cases your employer or a local business may take them, but it is often event driven and not available year round.

Many other types of batteries are recyclable.

Call2Recycle (www.call2recycle.org) is a great resource for locating local businesses that recycle batteries. Call ahead because compliance can be spotty.

If you absolutely must dispose of batteries, below is additional information.

Disposal of batteries depends on the type. LRS has the following information on their website:

<https://www.lrsrecycles.com/tips-for-the-proper-disposal-of-batteries/>

The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County's website has the following info:

<https://www.swancc.org/batteries>

Bicycles

The Wheel Thing in La Grange Park (417 N. La Grange Rd) takes old bikes and/or bike parts and gives them to Working Bikes

(<https://www.workingbikes.org/>)

Car Tires

K & S Tire Recycling, 303 State, Chicago Heights IL, 312 805-8266

<https://www.kandstirerecycling.com/>

Clothing / Textiles

At H&M (closest store is at the Oak Brook mall) you can drop off old clothes & textiles, even if they are not useable anymore. Each time you bring something in they will give you a 15% coupon to the store.

<https://about.hm.com/en/sustainability/Recyclingandgarmentcare/recycle-your-clothes.html>

Another local option for women's clothes is Hope Chest (305 W. Hillgrove in La Grange) <https://www.thehopechest.net/>

If you need to get rid of jeans you can bring them to Madewell at the Oak Brook Mall and get \$20 off a new pair. They are recycled into housing insulation.

<https://www.madewell.com/inspo-do-well-denim-recycling-landing.html>

Cooking Oil

Mahoney Environmental Bin / Dumpster (In the Alley South of Tate's)

Loyola University Sustainability Center, Rogers Park campus
<https://www.luc.edu/sustainability/initiatives/biodiesel/oil-donations/>

Electronics

Many electronics retailers such as Best Buy will take used electronics, cables, etc. and recycle them. Often there will be a charge for taking LCD screens. However, [Goodwill](#) (3054 S Wolf Rd, Westchester, IL 60154) will take LCDs at no charge. Policies vary so please call ahead or go online for details.

Below is a list of participants:

- [Goodwill](#) (see above)
- Best Buy
 - Appliances, ink/toner, batteries, audio, TV, Video, Computers, Tablets, Radios, Cell phones
- Bob's TV (630) 235-0387
 - Will pick up your old flat screen TVs (but NOT wooden framed nor projection TV) during
 - Evening or weekends. Call him in advance to work out details. He will accept tips to cover his gas money and time. By recycling components, he "makes" \$8 to \$10.
- Naperville Environmental Collection Campus
 - 156 Fort Hill Drive, Naperville, IL 60540, 630-420-6095
- Village of Burr Ridge
 - <https://www.dupageco.org/ElectronicsRecycling/>

Film

You hate to throw away those old family photos from the past 100 years in the Chicago area and would like to know where they can be kept? You will be required to sign away rights to reproduction.

Chicago Film Archives (South Loop) 329 W 18th St, Chicago, IL 60616 (312) 243-1808; www.chicagofilmarchives.org/

Flags

VFW (LaGrange Road/Countryside)

Furniture

Try selling on [Facebook Marketplace or Craigslist](#). [Goodwill](#) accepts furniture as well.

Glasses / Hearing Aids

Lions Club International (22d & York), drop off in lobby

Hazardous Waste

The Naperville Household Hazardous Waste Facility accepts many different items and will dispose of them. Expect that there will be a wait. This facility is one of only four household hazardous waste sites in Illinois.

156 Fort Hill Drive, Naperville, IL 60540, (630) 420-6095

Hours of operation: Saturdays and Sundays,
9 a.m. - 2 p.m., excluding holidays.

Kids Car Seats

Target stores have a twice per year car seat trade-in / recycling event. Check their website for specific dates (search "target car seat recycling") because it may change from year to year. Generally the event is in late April and again in September. The event lasts about two weeks so put it on your calendar. You can just drop it off and recycle it or you can trade in the car seat for a coupon to get a discount on a new car seat at Target.

<https://corporate.target.com/corporate-responsibility/planet/sustainable-products/car-seat-trade-in>

In the past Walmart has also done a car seat recycling event partnered with Terracycle:

<https://corporate.walmart.com/newsroom/2019/08/29/walmart-and-terracycle-to-host-nations-largest-car-seat-recycling-event>

Motor Oil

Jiffy lube has a program where they recycle used motor oil, even if you do your own oil changes. Participating locations vary, please call ahead:

<https://www.jiffylube.com>

Plastic Bags / Plastic Film

At the entrance to many grocery or big box stores (Jewel, Mariano's, Target, etc.) there are receptacles for plastic bags/film for recycling.

Prescription Drugs

Prescription drugs in baggies (No syringes or liquids) can be dropped off in the lobby at any time. Other locations can be found via

www.cookcountysheriff.com/SupportServices_PrescriptionDrugTakeBack.html

Best to just put pills in baggies and destroy or recycle containers with personal information on the labels.

Printer Ink Cartridges

Earth 911 is a resource for printer ink cartridge recycling

<https://earth911.com/>

Pack, Wrap, and Wend in Western Springs will accept ink cartridges, used phones, pillow & bubble wrap, as well as Styrofoam popcorn packing

Shoes

Shoe recycling can be done at the Nike Store, in strip mall just west of Costco in Oak Brook, they accept any brand of athletic shoes, but they're unable to recycle sandals, dress shoes, boots or shoes with metal (like studs or spikes).

Reuse-A-Shoe program, <https://www.nike.com/gb/help/a/recycle-shoes>

DSW has a show reusing program partnered with Soles4Souls:

<https://www.dsw.com/en/us/content/soles4souls>

Styrofoam

First Saturday of every month in the parking lot of the Western Springs recreation center (noted "Safety Village Garage" below)

1500 Walker Street, Western Springs, IL

All block Styrofoam and clean Styrofoam food containers are accepted.

NO PEANUTS PLEASE! Peanuts may be taken to your local packing and shipping store to be recycled.



Wine Corks

Sugar Beet Co-Op (820 Madison, Oak Park) 708-949-7656

Compost / Food Scraps

Try composting! The village has a separate document on their website about composting and the internet is another great resource of information.

In addition, the Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) is offering compost for no charge to residents, non-profit organizations, and governmental agencies within Cook County. The MWRD's compost, called EQ Compost, is produced by blending biosolids, woodchips, grass clippings, and leaves. Residents of Cook County, municipalities, park districts, golf courses, schools, and non-profit organizations can order bulk compost directly or have their landscaping contractor pick it up at the two EQ Compost distribution centers. Free delivery is available for orders of 10 cubic yards or more.

Private businesses can pick up bulk compost at the two EQ Compost distribution centers. Delivery and bulk pick up must be scheduled at least two days in advance. EQ Compost is also available in 20 lb bags.

EQ Compost Distribution Centers

Harlem Avenue Solids
Management Area
7430 Portage Trail, Forest View

Calumet Solids
Management Area
12600 S. Doty Ave, Chicago

For more information please visit www.compost.mwrdd.org