

# ENSURING COLLECTION

## CART PLACEMENT GUIDELINES

The **Curb It!** single-stream program makes it easy for you to recycle. But we need your help in making it easy to collect. Here's how you can help:

- » Yard waste bags, garbage carts and other objects should be at least THREE FEET AWAY from your cart.
- » Your cart should be within 18 INCHES OF THE CURB.
- » The short METAL BAR must face the street.
- » Do not place cart near low-hanging branches or cars.
- » LID MUST BE CLOSED in to prevent spillage into your yard or the street.

Putting your recycling cart in the right location ensures your recycling is picked up in a timely, safe and clean manner. Failure to do so may mean your recycling will not be collected at the appropriate time.



## COLLECTION DAY

### Scheduled Pick-up Day

**Curb It!** recycling is collected every other week. Be sure to set your cart out the week that matches the color of your container's lid (green or black). You can always refer to the calendar sticker on the



lid of the **Curb It!** cart. Simply match the color of your recycling cart lid to the key on the sticker.



### Pick-Up Time

Recycling carts must be placed at the curb no later than 7 a.m.

# curb it!

Recycle and Roll

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Metro Waste Authority initiated the **Curb It!** residential recycling program in 1994. We are proud to bring you curbside recycling, but we aren't doing it alone. We have partnered with two companies: WASTE MANAGEMENT OF IOWA collects your recyclables at the curb and takes them to GREENSTAR, which sorts and sells the material for reuse.



## COLLECTION OR CART ISSUES

Call Waste Management at 515.24.GREEN (244.7336) if your recyclables did not get picked up or your cart is damaged – or if you have other cart issues.

## WHAT'S HAPPENS BEYOND YOUR CURB?

Your recyclable material is hauled to Greenstar, where through mechanical processes, technology and people, it is sorted and bundled for resell. To learn more about the process, visit [www.MWAtoday.com](http://www.MWAtoday.com) and select Residential > Recycling > Curb It! Recycling Facility.

## OTHER PROGRAMS

Metro Waste Authority provides two additional recycling programs that integrate with **Curb It!**

**Curb It! Extra** – For \$30 year, residents can request an extra cart. **Curb It! for Business** – For \$40 a year, plus the purchase of up to five carts, eligible businesses can recycle the same way residents recycle.

To learn more, visit us on the web or call us today.



[www.MWAtoday.com](http://www.MWAtoday.com)  
515.244.0021

METRO WASTE  
The Recycling  
AUTHORITY

# Curb It!



## YOUR GUIDE TO RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING

AVAILABLE IN PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES  
alleman | altoona | ankeny | bondurant | carlisle | clive  
des moines | elkhart | grimes | hartford | johnston  
mitchellville | norwalk | pleasant hill | polk city | prairie city  
runnells | unincorporated polk county | urbandale  
west des moines | windsor heights



# WHAT TO RECYCLE



**Screw-Top Plastic Containers**



**Newspaper, Inserts & Magazines**  
**Mixed Paper** – Junk mail, phone books, envelopes  
**Cardboard** – Break down and cut to fit into cart



**Empty Aerosol Cans**



**Glass Jars & Bottles**  
 – All colors



**ONLY Yogurt & Margarine Containers**



**Shredded Paper**  
 Place in a paper sack or box



**Wire Hangers**



**Aluminum & Tin Cans**

# & WHAT NOT



**Plastic Bags or Recyclables in Plastic Bags**



**Plastic Food Containers & Utensils**



**Plastic Cups**



**Plastic Lids**  
 Remove lids and empty contents



**Containers for Hazardous Materials**



**Food Contaminated Items**  
 Pizza boxes, paper plates, napkins



**Foil & Disposable Baking Tins**



**All Styrofoam**



**Food Contaminated & Wax Coated Paper Products**



**Garbage or Yard Debris**

# curb it! FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Why hasn't my recycling been picked up?**  
 You may not be following the cart guidelines or it may not be your week (see other side). However, if you are following the guidelines and it is your week, call Waste Management at 515.24.GREEN (244.7336). NOTE: Des Moines residents need to call Public Works at 515.283.4950.

**Where do I take plastic bags to be recycled?**  
 Plastic bags are accepted at local grocery stores. They are not accepted in **Curb It!** because they get tangled up and damage the sorting equipment at the recycling center. **TIP:** Ask for paper bags, which are accepted in **Curb It!** or use reusable bags.

**If a product has the three chasing arrows symbol, doesn't that mean it's recyclable?**  
 Unfortunately, this symbol is not regulated so it can go on any product regardless of whether it truly can be recycled in your local program. The materials accepted in **Curb It!** have consistent and strong recycling markets.

**If I can recycle a No. 1 or 2 bottle, why can't I recycle everything with a No. 1 or 2?**  
 The number only identifies the type of plastic resin. Different manufacturing processes are used to make plastic bottles, tubs and various containers. When melted, different types of No. 1 plastics may have a different consistency (think of soup versus pudding).

Our local **Curb It!** program has identified a consistent market demand for screw-top plastics (but no lids) for reuse. When too many unaccepted plastics are placed in the carts, we risk losing this market since it contaminates the manufacturing process.

**TIP:** Simply recycle plastics with screw-top lids (but throw the lids in the trash), as these items are made with the same process.