

Your guide to  
**recycle, compost,  
share, and reuse  
in Evanston**

Circular Evanston Working Group

Updated 8 March 2024

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If you want to add to or correct information in this guide, please reach out to [tom.mulhern@gmail.com](mailto:tom.mulhern@gmail.com)

## Simply and Easy Tips

If you want to recycle well, but don't have time for details, **keep it simple** by following three basic instructions:

- **Empty, Clean, and Loose.** Paper products, metal and plastic containers should be empty, clean, and loose so they can be successfully processed by our recycler.
- **Quality plastic bottles, jugs, jars, and tubs only.** Flimsy plastics, thick plastics, plastic bags and films can NOT be recycled in your blue cart. Also, no black or multi-colored plastic, even if it has the right recycling number.
- **When in doubt, throw it out.** Avoid “wish-cycling.” If you have time and interest to get the most accurate information about what to do with each item specifically, including hard-to-recycle items, read detailed guide on the following pages.

## Recycling at a Glance



You can find more recycling videos and images at the City's Website [here](#) or [here](#).



# Where and When to Repair, Recycle, Reuse, and Compost...

GLASS		TO KNOW...
Bottles and jars of any color, shape, size (intact)	RE BB	Rinse out. No need to remove labels. Separate metal lids.
Light bulbs (compact fluorescent, non-working)	DR	Drop off at <b>2</b> or <b>24</b> . Place in zipper type bags for safety.
Light bulbs (incandescent, non-working)	TR	If still working, please reuse or give away. If not, toss.
Broken glass (including bottles, jars, windows, mirrors, etc.)	TR	Be careful handling. Wrap in other discardable material.
Glass drinkware (intact, useable glasses, mugs, etc.)	DO SR DR	Donate locally or call Simple Recycling for pickup.
Window glass or mirrors (good condition)	DR	Drop off at <b>12</b> (phone ahead to confirm acceptance).
METAL		
Cans of any kind	RE BB	No need to remove plastic or paper wrappers.
Metal lids larger than 3" across	BB	Under 3" lids need to go in the trash! Please don't combine.
Empty aerosol cans	BB	Make sure it's completely empty! If not, needs to go to <b>24</b> .
Aluminum foil, plates and trays ( <u>without</u> burn or food residue)	RE BB	Flatten it (not balls). Be sure it's clean! If not, you have to toss it.
Aluminum foil, plates and trays <u>with</u> burns or food residue	RE TR	Reuse as long as possible. Then toss.
Foil seals from yogurt, etc.	TR	As much as we'd like to save these, they won't be saved.
Scrap metal, metal hangers, damaged pots and pans, etc.	DR	Leave in alley for scrappers or drop off at <b>26</b> (phone ahead).
Large appliances (working or very nearly so)	DR	Drop off at <b>12</b> or <b>23</b> (phone ahead to confirm acceptance).
Large appliances (in bad repair)	DR	Drop at <b>25</b> (fee applies) or call 847-448-4311 for removal by <b>27</b> .
PLASTIC		
Containers with #1, #2, and #5 ( <u>except</u> black or mixed color)	RE BB	Rinse food/liquids. Remove shrink-wrap labels. <i>Put lids on.</i>
Plastic cups labeled #6 (e.g. Solo Cups)	TR DR	Throw out, or you can save up cups and lids and drop off at <b>18</b> .
Other plastics labeled #6 (e.g., Styrofoam containers)	TR DR	Generally waste. However <a href="#">Mt. Prospect</a> has begun to accept.
Plastics labeled #3, #4, #7 or with no label #	TR	Do NOT "wish-cycle" these. It contaminates the useful plastic.
Poly lactide (PLA) containers (if certified by <a href="#">CMA-W</a> or <a href="#">BPI</a> )	CR	Compost with Collective Resource only. NOT yard or blue bins.
Takeout container (#1 #2 or #5) ( <u>except</u> black or mixed color)	BB	Rinse out food. <i>Put lids on.</i> Do <u>not</u> recycle black or mixed color.
Clamshell container (#1 #2 or #5) ( <u>except</u> black or mixed color)	BB	Rinse off food or liquids. Shut lid. <u>Not</u> black or mixed color.
Pill/Vitamin Containers (#1 #2 or #5)	BB	Empty them.
Plastic bags, films, and labels (shopping, bread, produce, wrap)	DR	Drop off at <b>15</b> .
Rigid thick plastic (tubes, flower pot, nursery tray, toy, etc.)	TR	These can <u>NOT</u> be recycled even if they are marked with a #.
Spray bottles/dispensers (#1-5 or 7)	BB	Rinse thoroughly. Separate #s. Toss #6 or un-numbered.
Candy wrappers	TR DR	Throw out or save them up and drop off at <b>18</b> .
Flexible Plastic Pouches and Coffee Pods	TR	Don't contaminate the good stuff!
Foam packaging (styrofoam chunks, not peanuts)	DR	Drop off at <b>23</b> .

## Legend

- RE Reuse if you can!
- DO Donate to a thrift store
- BB Blue Bin
- YB Yard Bin
- CR Collective Resource Compost
- SR Simple Recycling
- TR Trash Bin
- DR Drop Off
- CC Call the City for help

## Drop Off Sites

















































See page 8 for address/contact.

- 1** Morton Civic Center
- 2** Ecology Center
- 3** Chandler-Newberger
- 4** Levy Senior Center
- 5** Noyes Arts Center
- 6** Robert Crown Center
- 7** Downtown Library
- 8** Evanston Township HS
- 9** Hill Center (D65/ESCCA)
- 10** Evanston Fire Dept.
- 11** Evanston Police Dept.
- 12** Rebuilding Exchange
- 13** WasteShed
- 14** Books4Cause
- 15** Jewel (any location)
- 16** Best Buy
- 17** Lemoi Hardware
- 18** Evanston Subaru
- 19** Evanston Eye Wellness
- 20** Wheel & Sprocket
- 21** HEART Certified Auto Care
- 22** Recyclery
- 23** Abt Appliances
- 24** Chicago Hazardous
- 25** SWANCC Transfer Station
- 26** Sims Metal










## Pick Up Services

See page 8 for contact info.

- 27** City of Evanston
- 28** Simple Recycling
- 29** Collective Resource
- 30** Honest Junk

PLASTIC (CONTINUED)		TO KNOW...
Packing peanuts—Polylactide (corn, sugar-cane based))	 	Collective Resource or backyard composting, not in yard bins
Packing peanuts—Styrofoam	 	Pure waste.
Plastic condiment packets and plastic cutlery		100% waste. Ask restaurants not to send.
Six pack and 12 pack rings		Total waste. Chop up to save the fish.
Lids not attached to their containers		These small things clog up the recycling system. Must be attached.
Reusable shopping bags	 	Reuse these as long as possible. They are NOT recyclable.
Campaign signs		Consider repurposing as poster-board, but do NOT recycle.
PAPER		
Newspaper	 	Remove bags/bands. Do NOT compost in city yard bin.
Junk mail, magazines, catalogs, phone books, and paperbacks	 	Open to ensure no plastic. Do NOT compost in city yard bin.
Office paper (used, any color, incl. envelopes)	  	Don't recycle if shredded, but you can compost shredded w/CR.
Cardboard boxes, tubes, shoeboxes	  	Remove shredded paper. Do NOT compost in city yard bin.
Cardboard packing/shipping boxes and envelopes	  	In good condition? Donate to <a href="#">Ecoship</a> . Break down & remove tape.
Bakery bag/box w/plastic "window"	 	Rinse food. Remove/toss plastic. Do NOT compost in city bin.
Milk, juice, broth, soup, wine cartons	 	Rinse food or liquids. Put lids on. Do NOT compost in city bin.
Cardboard with Food (Pizza boxes, etc.)	 	Compost with Collective Resource only, not in city bins or bags.
Cardboard egg cartons	  	Can put in City recycling or compost with Collective Resource.
Gift bags		Remove foil and plastic 'bling' from gift bags.
<a href="#">CMA-W</a> - or <a href="#">BPI</a> -certified compostable plates, kitchenware, napkins, etc.		Compost with Collective Resource only, not in city bins or bags.
Microwave popcorn bags		
Coffee filters		
Masking tape (Blue only)		
Shredded paper (only in small amounts used as a liner in compost bin)		
Paper hot and cold drink cups (uncoated paper only)		<u>NO LIDS</u> . Recycle with city, but do NOT compost.
Paper towels (unless CMA-W certified)		These cannot be composted or recycled..
Shredded paper (e.g., from a shredder)		
Waxed Paper and Parchment Paper		
Paper shopping bags	  	But first REUSE them. Or compost with Collective Resource.
Paper 'chip board' food packaging (100% paper only)	 	Remove mixed materials, Recycle or compost w/Collective Resource.
Paper with Food (not cardboard)	 	Do NOT recycle. Compost with city or Collective Resource.
Gift wrap	  	No foils or flocking. Recycle w/city or compost w/CR but NOT in city bin.
Masking tape and other tapes (except Blue masking tape)		Can NOT be composted or recycled yet.
Coated or multi-layered paper or cardboard		"Food safe" treatments make containers unrecyclable.
Go-cups with coated paper		
Pet Food Bags		
Berry containers		Do NOT compost or recycle.
Facial tissue, tissue paper, hygiene products		And <i>do not flush</i> hygiene products.

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-  Blue Bin
-  Yard Bin
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-  Simple Recycling
-  Trash Bin
-  Drop Off
-  Call the City for help

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## CLOTHES & TEXTILES

### TO KNOW...

100% cotton clothing (clean and wearable)	RE DO SR	Drop off at <b>9</b> or another local charity or thrift store.
100% cotton clothing or fabric (unwearable)	CR SR	Compost (Collective Resource) or free pickup (Simple Recycling).
Synthetic/mixed clothing (clean in good condition)	RE DO SR	Donate locally or call Simple Recycling to schedule pickup.
100% cotton clothing (clean and wearable)		
Synthetic/mixed clothing (clean in good condition)		
Adult Coats and Jackets (clean and wearable)		
Hats		
Blankets		
Pillows		
Sleeping Bags		
Drapes/Curtains		
Synthetic/mixed clothing (not wearable)	DO DR	Call Simple Recycling to schedule pickup.
Swiffer dusters and similar wet/dry cleaners and dusters	TR	Straight-up waste.

## FOOD AND ORGANIC WASTE

### TO KNOW...

Vegetable scraps (fruit, bread, etc.)	CR YB	For City, put in bins, NOT yard bags. Put in separate paper bag.
Meat and other animal product scraps (bone, grease, etc.)		
Grains, Cereal, Bread and other baked goods		
Dairy products		
Fish/seafood		
Eggshells		
Fried food		
Sugar/salt/pepper packets		
Sugars/syrup		
Spices/herbs		
Coffee grounds		
Tea		
Tea bags		
Candy		
Yard Waste	YB	Only in City yard waste bins and yard waste bags
Houseplant Scraps	CR YB	Yard bins, backyard composting or Collective Resource
Gum	TR	Do NOT compost.
Pet litter		
Pet waste		
Fertilizers (even organic ones)		

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CHEMICALS & MEDICATIONS	TO KNOW...	
Aerosol cans that are not empty (incl. chemicals & paints)	DR	Drop off at <b>24</b> (empty clean cans can go in blue bin).
Paint — latex and acrylic, water-based paint that's still usable	RE DR	Drop off at <b>17</b> (they have a recycling partner for this purpose).
Paint — latex and acrylic, water-based paint (unusable)	TR	Dry out paint in can using cat litter or paper scraps. Then toss.
Motor oil, gasoline, auto fluids	DR	Drop at <b>21, 24</b> , or <b>Rolf's Auto Doctor</b> or <b>400 Super Service</b> .
Paint — Oil based paints and paint thinners	DR	Drop off at <b>24</b> .
Solvents (mineral spirits, stains, strippers, preservatives, etc.)		
Household cleaners		
Herbicides, pesticides and insecticides		
Fertilizers, pool chemicals and hobby chemicals		
Antifreeze		
Hydrogen peroxide		
Prescription medications, including controlled substances	DR	Drop off at <b>11</b> . Uncontrolled meds only also taken at <b>24</b> .
Any over the counter medication (unused or expired)	DR	Drop off at <b>11, 24</b> or at Annual Collection Event at <b>8</b> .
Pet medications		
Liquids and creams	DR	Drop off at <b>11</b> or at Annual Collection Event at <b>8</b> .
Vitamins		
ELECTRONICS	TO KNOW...	
Batteries—Alkaline (AA, AAA, C, D, etc.)	TR	These are not hazardous and they are NOT recyclable.
Batteries — Car Batteries	DR	Drop off at <b>21, 24</b> or at <b>400 Super Service</b> .
Batteries—Lithium, NiCad, Rechargeable	DR	Drop off at <b>24</b> .
Batteries — lead acid	DR	
Electronics that are working and in good repair	RE DO	Donate locally. It is ILLEGAL in IL to put electronics in the trash.
Small electronics (obsolete, broken, etc.)	DR	Repair at a Repair Cafe! Or drop at <b>1, 4, 16, 24</b> or <b>25</b> .
Larger electronics (obsolete broken, etc.)	DR	Drop off at <b>24 or 25</b> (at specified times/days)
Non-usable printers, scanners, and fax machines (home type)		or at Annual Collection Event at <b>8</b> .
Non-usable VCR, DVD players/recorders		
Non-usable video game consoles		
Non-usable TVs of any kind		
Non-usable computers, keyboards and mice	DR	Drop off at <b>1, 4, 16, 24 or 25</b> (at specified times/days)
Non-usable music players (mp3, iPods, etc.) or cell phones		or at Annual Collection Event at <b>8</b> .
Non-usable digital converter boxes		
Non-usable cable and satellite receivers		
CDs, DVDs, video tapes, cassette tapes, etc.	DO DR	Donate locally or drop off at <b>14</b> .

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





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OTHER HOUSEHOLD GOODS		TO KNOW...
Small Appliances (in good repair)	 	Donate locally (at <b>Goodwill</b> for example).
Small Appliances (not in good repair)	 	Bring it to a repair cafe! If high metal content, drop off at <b>26</b> .
Books — Paperback	 	Put in your blue bin. Or, if in good condition, donate to <b>14</b> .
Books — Hardcover		These can NOT go in blue bin. Donate to <b>7</b> or <b>14</b> .
Bicycles (in any condition)		Drop off at <b>20</b> or <b>22</b> .
Bicycle inner tubes & e-Bike Batteries		Drop off at <b>REI store in Northbrook</b> .
Ceramics or glassware (broken)		You could upcycle into a mosaic...but otherwise toss, safely.
Ceramics or glassware (in good condition)	 	Donate locally or call Simple Recycling to schedule pickup.
Cookware, dishware, or utensils (no longer usable)		If you can separate metal, these could be scrap metal instead.
Cookware, dishware, or utensils (usable)	  	Donate locally or call Simple Recycling to schedule pickup.
Silverware		
Backpacks		
Toys (in good condition)		
Purses		
Shoes		
Tools		
Jewelry		
Hangers (usable)		
Office and Art supplies and materials (in useful condition)	 	Drop off at <b>13</b> , but call first to confirm.
Office and Art supplies and materials that can't be used		Separate and recycle the paper first if you can.
Toys (not in good condition)		Call Simple Recycling to schedule pickup.
Furniture and other bulky items that cannot be reused	  	If in good condition, donate or reuse. Else pickup with <b>27</b> .
Holiday lights	 	Dec 1 — January 31 each year. Drop at <b>2</b> , <b>4</b> , or <b>6</b> .
Holiday trees		Leave in front yard in post-holiday period (Jan 3-28 in 2023)
Holiday wreaths	 	Remove the metal parts, then compost (bin, yard, or CR).
Houseplant scraps	 	Yard bins, backyard composting or Collective Resource.
Contact Lenses		Drop off at <b>19</b> (they are a drop-off site for contact lenses).
Eyeglasses (prescription)		Drop off with <b>MyEyeDr</b> or <b>CustomEyes</b> or other optometrists.
Film or photos		Not recyclable. Often contain harmful chemicals.
Cat litter		Enclose in a bag, preferably non-recyclable
Corks	 	Drop off at <b>Chicago Botanic Garden</b> (A ReCork dropoff site)
Rubber		Generally not recyclable. Look for ways to upcycle.
Soap		Consider saving and reusing. Otherwise throw in trash.

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## OTHER HOUSEHOLD GOODS (Continued)

### TO KNOW...

Pencils (that cannot be used, remove metal)	CR	Compost with Collective Resource only, not in yard bins.
Cotton balls		
Cellulose sponges		
Dryer lint		
Fur/hair		
Nail clippings		
Candles and Wax	RE TR	If you can't melt down and reuse, then put in trash bin.
Cigarettes/cigars	TR	Pure unadulterated waste.
Cold ashes from fireplace/grill	CR YB	For City, put in bins, NOT yard bags. Put in separate paper bag.

## CONSTRUCTION

### TO KNOW...

Construction materials (usable)	RE DR	If in useable condition, drop off at <b>12</b> (but call first to confirm).
Construction materials (scrap)	TR	Try to pull out any scrap metals and recycle.
Cement or concrete	CC	CALL 311 for pickup or other instructions.
Wood products/sawdust	CR	Compost with Collective Resource only, not in yard bins.
Soil	RE DR	Leave it on the ground! Do NOT put in yard bins.

## HAZARDOUS

Needles and sharps	DR	Drop off at <b>10</b> .
Thermometers, Switches and Thermostats (contain Mercury)	DR	Drop off at <b>24</b> .
Propane tanks for BBQ grills		
Small fire extinguishers		
Small non-refillable cylinders, e.g., CO(2)		
Smoke or carbon monoxide detectors	TR	Some manufacturers have takeback programs. Otherwise toss.
Tires	DR	Drop off at <b>21</b> or at <b>Rolf's Auto Doctor</b>
Refrigerants/freons	CC	CALL 311 for pickup or other instructions.
Explosives, ammunition, or fireworks		
Radioactive materials		
Bloody waste		
IV bags		
Farm machinery oil		
Dead animals		

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# City Composting & Collective Resource Compost

COSTS	\$82.50 + \$35/year	~\$3/bag (w/sticker)	\$21-\$30 month
PICKUP	Apr. 3-Dec. 7 '23 Curbside*	Apr. 3-Dec. 7 '23 Curbside	Year-round Front porch
CONTENTS	City Bins	City Bags	Collective
Yard Waste	✓	✓	✗
Houseplant Scraps	✓	✓	✓
Glass	✗	✗	✗
Candy wrappers	✗	✗	✗
Plastic bags	✗	✗	✗
Plastic condiment packets	✗	✗	✗
Styrofoam	✗	✗	✗
PLA items ( <a href="#">CMA-W</a> - or <a href="#">BPI</a> -certified)	✗	✗	✓
Compostable plates/plasticware ( <a href="#">CMA-W</a> - or <a href="#">BPI</a> -certified)	✗	✗	✓
Berry containers	✗	✗	✗
Dog food bags	✗	✗	✗
Juice boxes, other foil-lined containers	✗	✗	✗
Microwave popcorn bags	✗	✗	✓
Newspaper	✗	✗	✓
Paper food packaging	✗	✗	✓
Waxed cardboard cartons	✗	✗	✗
Coffee filters	✓	✗	✗
Food-soiled paper (no boxes)	✗	✗	✓
Tea bags (paper-based only, not fabric-based)	✗	✗	✓
<a href="#">CMA-W</a> - or <a href="#">BPI</a> -certified compostable bags, etc.	✗	✗	✓
Egg cartons	✗	✗	✓
Food soiled cardboard (Pizza Boxes)	✗	✗	✓
Gift bags or wrap	✗	✗	✓
Waxed paper	✗	✗	✓
Swiffer duster	✗	✗	✗
Synthetic clothing	✗	✗	✗
100% cotton clothing	✗	✗	✓
All fruit	✓	✗	✓
All vegetables	✓	✗	✓
Baked Goods, Breads, Cereal, and Grains	✓	✗	✓
Dairy products (no liquids)	✓	✗	✓
Egg shells	✓	✗	✓
Fish/seafood (including bones and shells)	✗	✗	✓

Fried food (not meats or fish)	✓	✗	✓
Meats	✗	✗	✓
Candy	✓	✗	✓
Gum	✗	✗	✗
Coffee grounds (not in pods)	✓	✗	✓
Spices/herbs	✓	✗	✓
Sugars/Syrups	✓	✗	✓
Tea (loose tea leaves, not in bags)	✓	✗	✓
Sugar/salt/pepper packets	✗	✗	✓
Cleaners	✗	✗	✗
Fertilizers	✗	✗	✗
Candles	✗	✗	✗
Cat litter	✗	✗	✗
Ceramics	✗	✗	✗
Christmas trees	✗	✗	✗
Cigarettes/cigars	✗	✗	✗
Hygiene products	✗	✗	✗
Masking tape (not blue)	✗	✗	✗
Masking tape (Blue)	✗	✗	✓
Rubber	✗	✗	✗
Soap	✗	✗	✗
Wax	✗	✗	✗
Cold ashes from fireplace/grill	✓	✗	✓
Cellulose sponges	✗	✗	✓
Cotton balls	✗	✗	✓
Dryer lint	✗	✗	✓
Fur/hair	✗	✗	✓
Holiday wreaths	✗	✗	✓
Nail clippings	✗	✗	✓
Pencils	✗	✗	✓
Construction materials	✗	✗	✗
Soil	✗	✗	✗
Wood products/Sawdust	✗	✗	✓
Dead animals	✗	✗	✗
Feces	✗	✗	✗
Liquids (except small amounts on food)	✗	✗	✗

\* Off-season food and yard waste collection will be available December 8, 2023 to the end of March, 2024 using the existing green yard cart. Pricing to be determined by # of participants, estimated between \$9/ and \$20/month, not to exceed \$80. Sign up and learn more at [cityofevanston.org/yardwastepilot](https://cityofevanston.org/yardwastepilot).

# Saving and Sharing Edible Food

One of the most frustrating wastes in modern life is when we have to throw out “perfectly good food.” The flow chart below offers guidance about what to do with excess food from your home or event. To the right, we list local food donation recipients, and share some related resources. Remember...

- Not all food is safe for donation. Please protect health and obey laws.\*
- Recipients know their needs. So, call/email to confirm, then respect their wishes.
- You can still avoid a total waste by composting instead of tossing.

IF YOU HAVE THIS...	THEN TRY THIS...
1 <b>Packaged food that is unopened</b> , with a clearly marked use-by date that is still in the future.	<u>Contact first</u> , then bring to a <b>food pantry</b> . Email or call ahead to confirm if/when/how they accept).  OR, you can check to confirm that it meets <a href="#">donation guidelines</a> then deliver to a <b>community fridge</b> .
2 <b>Larger quantities of food</b> that would feed 10+ people, <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• From a caterer, restaurant, or deli that has been prepared and packed safely and is unopened OR</li><li>• Fresh fruit, vegetables, pastries, bread, or eggs (in a carton that has a valid use-by date)</li></ul>	<u>Contact first</u> , then bring to a <b>shelter</b> . Email or call ahead to confirm if/when/how they accept.  OR, if they cannot accept the food, divide into smaller, portions, clearly label those portions per <a href="#">donation guidelines</a> and deliver to a <b>community fridge</b> or post on <b>mutual aid</b> group such as <a href="#">Freecycle</a> or <a href="#">Buy Nothing Project</a> .
3 <b>Smaller quantities</b> of obviously fresh, safe, edible food including clearly labeled containers of leftovers that are NOT raw meat, raw fish or an <i>opened</i> container of a condiment, liquid, or sauce.	Confirm that it meets <a href="#">donation guidelines</a> then label clearly and deliver to a <b>community fridge</b> .
4 <b>Other safe, fresh, edible food</b> that does not meet the criteria above (opened, raw, undated, etc.)	Give directly to friends or neighbors, or post on <b>mutual aid</b> group such as <a href="#">Freecycle</a> or <a href="#">Buy Nothing Project</a> .
5 <b>None of the above</b> is true, or you’ve tried all the other ways to share your food.	Remove packaging and <b>compost</b> . See p. 10 for composting options and guidelines.

\*For information about laws and “Good Samaritan” protections for food donations, see <https://policyfinder.refed.org/illinois/>

## Food Pantries that Accept Donations

*Call or email in advance only.*

Grace Lutheran Church, 1430 South, 847-475-2211

..also small pantry, on Wesley near South, open 24 hrs

Connections for the Homeless & Hilda’s Drop-In

2121 Dewey, [donations@connect2home.org](mailto:donations@connect2home.org)

Hillside Free Methodist Church, 2727 Crawford, 847-328-7182

Vineyard Christian Church, 2495 Howard, 847-328-4544

Salvation Army, 1403 Sherman, 847-866-9770

Hemenway Methodist Church, 933 Chicago, 847-328-2600

Howard Area Community Ctr., 7648 N Paulina, 773-262-6622

A Just Harvest, 7649 N Paulina, Chicago, 773-262-2297

## Shelters that Accept Donations

*Call or email in advance only.*

Hilda’s Drop-In & Margarita Inn, [donations@connect2home.org](mailto:donations@connect2home.org)

Salvation Army, 1403 Sherman, 847-866-9770

## Evanston Community Fridges

*First view [online](#) for donation guidelines and info on how to support. <https://www.evanstoncommunityfridges.com>*

Sunrise Fridge, 320 Madison, hosted by Reba Place Church.

Freedom Fridge, 619 W. Howard, hosted by Palmhouse 619.

Soul Fridge, 1601 Payne, hosted by Soul & Smoke.

CNE Fridge, 1335 Dodge, hosted by CNE.

## Online Mutual Aid Groups

[Evanston Freecycle](#)

<https://www.freecycle.org/town/EvanstonIL>

[Evanston Buy Nothing Project](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/729409341263592/>

*These groups exist for nearby communities also.*

*Search “Freecycle” or “Buy Nothing” online to find out more.*

## How to Avoid Food Waste in the First Place

To waste less food, we need to shop and plan better—buy only what we need and cook with what we have. For more information, tips, and tricks, see sites such as [SaveTheFood.Com](#) (<https://savethefood.com>) or [ReFed](#) (<https://refed.org/>).

## Directory of Recycling, Compost & Reuse

- 1 Morton Civic Center 2100 Ridge Ave. — 847-328-2100
- 2 Ecology Center 2024 McCormick Blvd. — 847-448-8256
- 3 Chandler-Newberger Center 1028 Central St. — 847-448-8252
- 4 Levy Senior Center 300 Dodge Ave. — 847-448-4311
- 5 Noyes Cultural Arts Center 927 Noyes St. — 847-866-5917
- 6 Robert Crown Center 1701 Main St. — 847-448-8258
- 7 Evanston Public Library 1703 Orrington Ave.
- 8 Evanston Township High School (ETHS) 1600 Dodge <sup>1</sup>
- 9 ESCCA (District 65) 1500 McDaniel Ave. — 847-859-8018
- 10 Evanston Fire Department 909 Lake St.
- 11 Evanston Police Department 1454 Elmwood Ave.
- 12 Rebuilding Exchange 1245 Hartrey Ave. — 773-252-3017 <sup>2</sup>
- 13 The WasteShed 1245 Hartrey Ave. — 224-999-7460
- 14 Books4Cause 3415 Madison St., Skokie — 800-570-3698
- 15 Jewel (Various Locations in Chicago, Evanston and Wilmette)
- 16 Best Buy 2401 Howard St. — 847-570-0450
- 17 Lemoi Ace Hardware 1008 Davis St. — 847-328-4900
- 18 McGrath Evanston Subaru 3340 Oakton, Skokie — 847-869-5700
- 19 Evanston Eye Wellness 716 Main St. — 847-859-6877
- 20 Wheel & Sprocket 1027 Davis St.— 847-864-7660
- 21 HEART Certified Auto Care 2620 Green Bay Rd. 847-869-3200
- 22 The Recyclery Collective 7628 N Paulina, Chicago — 773-262-5900
- 23 Abt Appliances, 1200 N Milwaukee Ave, Glenview — 800-860-3577
- 24 Chicago Hazardous Recycling, 1150 N. North Branch St. — 312-747-9884 <sup>3</sup>
- 25 SWANCC Transfer Strn, 3 Providence Way, Des Plaines — 847-724-9205 <sup>4</sup>
- 26 Sims Metal, 350 N. Artesian, Chicago — 312-985-0536
- 27 City of Evanston — 847-448-4311
- 28 Simple Recycling — 866-835-5068 <sup>5</sup>
- 29 Collective Resource Compost — 847-733-766
- 30 Honest Junk — 773-733-2745
  - Rolf's Auto Doctor, 2015 Dempster — 847-491-9600
  - 400 Super Service, 1310 Sherman Ave. — 847-869-5560
  - MyEyeDr., 2000 Central St. — 847-864-0300
  - CustomEyes, 1939 Central St. — 847-859-2454
  - Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd, Glencoe — 847-835-6801
  - REI Northbrook — 888 Willow Rd, Northbrook, — 847-480-1938
  - Ecoship — Logan Square, Chicago, IL | ecoshipchicago@gmail.com

## Other sources for information

**The City** department of Public Works hosts up to date info on waste pickup and recycling [online](https://www.cityofevanston.org/government/departments/public-works/services/).<https://www.cityofevanston.org/government/departments/public-works/services/>

**SWANCC** maintains a more comprehensive [directory of reuse and recycling locations in the region](https://www.swancc.org/recycling/recycle-directory).  
<https://www.swancc.org/recycling/recycle-directory>

**Earth 911** has more information about [recycling opportunities](https://earth911.com) around the world.<https://earth911.com>

[Compost Manufacturing Alliance](https://compostmanufacturingalliance.com/) and [Biodegradeable Products Institute](https://products.bpiworld.org/) host directories of products that can be commercially composted using Collective Resource Compost.  
<https://compostmanufacturingalliance.com/> &  
<https://products.bpiworld.org/>

**Chicago Environmentalists** maintain a [directory listing](https://www.chicagoenvironmentalists.org/reuse) of reuse & recycle sites. <https://www.chicagoenvironmentalists.org/reuse>

**Freecycle** is a good way to [unload stuff](https://www.freecycle.org/town/EvanstonIL) that's still useful to someone, just not you. <https://www.freecycle.org/town/EvanstonIL>

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- 1 At the annual Evanston Recycles Event, held in the first week of July each year, only electronics, unused and expired medications (in labeled bottles, no syringes), and paper documents for shredding (up to 5 bankers' boxes with all metal removed) are accepted. No HH chemicals.
  - 2 The Rebuilding Exchange does not accept the following materials: liquid/semi-liquid materials (paint, stain, cleaners, grout, caulk, etc), lightbulbs, fluorescent light fixtures, fabric-based materials (beds, sofas, loungers, carpet, etc), pipes, electrical wiring, and insulation.)
  - 3 Check web site first. Only open on Thursdays, 2pm-7pm and 1st Saturday of month: 8am-3pm.
  - 4 Check web site first. Limited hours for electronics recycling. Saturdays 9-11:30a.
  - 5 Schedule pickups online in advance at SimpleRecycling.com or call 866-835-5068.