

Single Sort Recycling

Single sort recycling information:

[Single Sort Brochure](#) (PDF 283KB)

[Download a copy of A Guide to Recycling for Small Businesses.](#) (PDF 163KB)

What Changed?

Instead of separating recyclables by type, simply combine all glass, metal, paper, cardboard, and plastics #1-7 into one recycling container. It's simple.

With more than 120 recycling containers in 60 locations throughout southern Maine, **ecomaine** provides for convenient, energy-efficient disposal of recyclable materials, such as colored paper, old mail, newspapers, magazines, phone books, catalogs and paper bags. We also accept paperboard, glass, cans, aluminum and plastic. [More information on what can be recycled.](#)

The ecomaine Single-Sort Guide

[back to top](#)

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Is this recycling system better for the environment?

YES. Every ton recycled is one less ton in the waste stream, and national statistics show that single-sort recycling systems result in more recycling. Why? Because it's so much easier (no sorting).

Here is a list of common items that you *can* recycle:

YES! PAPER

- cardboard/all boxes
- newspaper & inserts/junk mail
- hard cover books
- magazines/catalogs/phone books
- paper bags
- office paper/window envelopes/ office file folders
- paper plates (clean)/pizza boxes
- paper shopping bags
- empty drink & aseptic containers/ empty milk & juice cartons
- gift boxes
- cereal boxes
- corrugated cardboard
- wrapping paper

YES! PLASTIC

- all empty containers marked with a #1-7, *except Styrofoam*
- plastic grocery/shopping bags marked with a #2 or #4
- water bottles (empty)
- detergent bottles (empty)
- milk jugs (empty)

YES! METAL

- empty tin cans
- empty aerosol cans
- empty aluminum cans
- foil
- pots & pans

YES! GLASS

- all empty bottles & jars (all colors)

NO! Here is a list of items that *can not* be recycled:

- light bulbs (not accepted at ecomaine but, CFLs can be recycled at store)
- vinyl siding
- windows/glass
- hypodermic needles or sharp objects
- paper napkins or towels
- bubble wrap/Styrofoam/Tyvek
- food/frozen food bags/liquids
- toys/diapers
- clothing
- plastic wrap or film
- potato chip, sandwich, or bread bags
- gas or propane containers
- alkaline or button-cell batteries
- trash/trash bags
- No Hazardous Waste: fuel, anti-freeze, oil-based paints, paint thinners, stains, fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals.
- No Universal Waste: mercury in thermostats, fluorescent bulbs, compact fluorescent lights, televisions, computers, and button-cell batteries.

Did You Know?

- Maine law requires that old TVs, computers, cell phones and other HHW (household hazardous waste) materials be recycled at State certified sites, such as the City of Portland's Riverside Transfer Station. For more information and to find the site nearest you, contact your municipal government.
- When you recycle you are also reducing your amount of waste. And, every pound of material you recycle is one less pound for which your town must pay a disposal fee.
- ecomaine has the largest municipal recycling program in the state, processing more than 27,000 tons of recyclable material per year.
- Each person in the United States disposes of about 4 pounds of trash every day - about 30 percent more waste per person than in 1960.
- About 50 percent of the material recycled by ecomaine is paper. Cardboard, glass, steel cans and aluminum make up the other recyclables.
- Paper is often recycled into more newsprint, cardboard into more cardboard, cans into new steel, and plastic into more plastic. However, PET (plastic) soda bottles are also used to make fleece clothing or synthetic "wood."
- Anything that comes to ecomaine not labeled as recyclables is re-used as fuel to produce electricity.

[back to 1](#)

Recycling Facility

The ecomaine recycling facility is the largest in Maine. We recycle fiber (paper, paperboard, corrugated cardboard, newsprint), #1 through #7 plastic containers, metal (tin, aluminum, steel), and glass. At the close of the 2005-2006 fiscal year ecomaine's recycling center had recycled 24,609.53 tons - a record for ecomaine. In fiscal year (2006-2007), ecomaine recycled more than 27,000 tons and set another record.

Though much of the recycling tonnage would be valuable fuel for the waste-to-energy plant, the owner-communities and management of ecomaine are committed to making recycling their first priority. To continue the upward trend of recycling tonnage, ecomaine has dedicated two employees to recycling outreach among member and non-member communities.

Our recycling facility is located at 64 Blueberry Road, Portland (next to the waste-to-energy plant) and occupies the building originally built for baling solid waste in the 1970s. Trucks from all over southern Maine now stop here to unload recyclable materials. Because recyclables have value as a raw material, trucks are weighed before and after they drop off materials - the difference determines tonnage ecomaine has purchased.