

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – Warson Woods Recycling Carts

Background: The City of Warson Woods participates in Single-Stream Recycling . In November 2010, 65-gallon recycling carts will be provided to each household for recycling collection. A recycling information guide is printed on each lid of the recycling cart to provide a listing of accepted materials for Single Stream Recycling. All acceptable recyclables may be mixed in your recycling cart (no sorting is necessary). Please rinse food residue from containers and do not pre-bag the recyclables. No trash, yard waste or hazardous materials will be collected from the recycling cart. Recyclables contaminated with these materials will not be collected. For collection please properly place the cart three feet from all obstructions or other debris.

Q: Why are recycling carts being provided to residents of Warson Woods? Is there a charge for these carts? Why are we doing this?

A: The City of Warson Woods applied for and received a recycling grant from the St. Louis-Jefferson Waste Management District. This grant funded approximately 90% of the carts; matching funds from the city (10%) were provided as well. The total cost was approximately \$35,000. Neighboring communities (e.g., Glendale, Kirkwood) have received similar grants for recycling. By increasing our recycling and disposing less, this allows for greater flexibility (e.g., costs, pickup days) in overall solid waste collection services going forward. **There is no direct charge or fee to residents of Warson Woods for the initial cart distribution.**

Q: What's the benefit of recycling more and disposing less? How does it help?

A: In brief, it's better for the environment and saves money. Recycling prevents waste from being disposed in a landfill and reduces overall waste disposal costs. Many recyclable materials don't decompose well and unnecessarily take up landfill space. Instead, recycled materials are sorted and re-sold as commodities – reducing overall costs to the community.

Q: Why should we use recycling carts – what was the problem with using the old bins or my own containers?

A: The carts have a much greater capacity than the old bins and are designed for automatic pickup from the curb. This allows recyclables to be collected more efficiently. The wheeled carts are also more “worker-friendly”; they help prevent work-related injuries to the workers collecting our recycles. These factors help keep overall collection costs down – which ultimately results in savings for all of us.

Q: Where do we place the recycling carts for pickup?

A: At the curb/ end of your driveway. Please try to not block sidewalks or impede street traffic. We suggest three feet from other obstructions. Do the best you can with placement – our waste collectors will appreciate your effort.

Q: Is recycling mandatory in Warson Woods?

A: No – it is not mandatory.

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Q: Will I be forced to take a cart if I don't want one?

A: No. You will not be forced to take a cart, but we don't recommend this approach. As terms of our recycling grant, the City committed to providing a recycling cart to every residence and budgeted accordingly. If you don't want to take a cart, simply inform the delivery people on the delivery date or call City Hall after delivery and we'll come and pick it up. Experience with other communities has indicated very few people refuse delivery.

Q: How do I know what to recycle? What is Single Stream recycling?

A: Instructions are printed on the lid of each cart. Information on recycling is also provided on the Warson Woods website (www.warsonwoods.com). Single stream recycling means you don't have to sort your recyclables – just put them all in the cart.

Q: Is this my cart to keep? What if our family moves out of Warson Woods?

A: The cart is provided to each residence, not the occupant/ owner specifically. We would appreciate if you leave the cart in the residence garage/ carport should you move out of Warson Woods.

Q: Can I use my recycling cart for other types of waste if I don't want to recycle?

A: No. No trash, yard waste or hazardous materials will be collected from the recycling cart. Recyclables contaminated with these materials will not be collected.

Q: Do all recycled items have to fit in the cart? What if I have items that won't fit/ overflow?

A: Just do your best to fit all your recyclable items in the cart. If you have large, bulky items (e.g., cardboard boxes) that won't fit, place those items next to the cart on collection day. If you have too many items to recycle, such as a large amount of cans or bottles, you can use another container – like a plastic trash can or your old recycling bin from Onyx/ Veolia. Please do not place recycled materials in plastic bags.

Q: What should I do with my old recycling bin from Onyx/ Veolia?

A: Use it for recycling overflow or whatever you want. You can probably also recycle this item if you don't want it.

Q: What if my cart breaks/ becomes non-serviceable? Who do I contact for a replacement or repair?

A: As part of the current recycling grant, the City has purchased a limited number of extra recycling carts. These carts are engineered for durability; however, sometimes unfortunate things happen resulting in breakage. Should your cart break or go missing, please contact Warson Woods City Hall (965-3100) for a replacement or repair.