

Cumberland County Recycling & Disposal

Guide: A to Z



Disclaimer

Reference herein to any specific product, process, service, trade name, manufacturer, company, web site or otherwise does not constitute or imply Cumberland County's endorsement, recommendation, or favoring. The information is provided in an effort to offer suggestions on how certain materials may be handled from a waste management perspective. It is expected that the reader will use their best judgment when implementing suggestions contained in this guide.

The accuracy of the information provided is not guaranteed. Cumberland County recommends contacting any recycling/disposal outlet in advance to confirm that they do indeed accept the items listed and to obtain other information such as costs, restrictions, limits, etc.

Item	Curbside Trash/Recycling Options	Drop-Off Trash/Recycling Options
A		
Air Conditioners	May be able to set out as a bulk item on trash collection day – contact your municipality and/or waste collector .	Contact a freon appliance recycler or scrap recycler to see if they will accept. Window air conditioners are accepted at Cumberland County's fee-based electronics recycling center .
Aluminum	Aluminum cans should be placed in your recycling bin. DO NOT place aluminum scrap in recycling bin.	Aluminum scrap (and even aluminum cans) can be taken to a scrap recycler .
Ammunition	DO NOT place ammunition in trash or recycling.	Try contacting your local police department or a shooting/sportsmen's club.
Antifreeze	Not regulated if from a private home; therefore, may be disposed of with trash. Absorb into vermiculite, cat litter, saw dust or other absorbent material. Divide larger quantities and dispose of them over several collection periods.	Some businesses do accept antifreeze for recycling – contact for details. Antifreeze is accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
Appliances Containing Freon	May be able to set out as a bulk item on trash collection day – contact your municipality and/or waste collector .	Contact a freon appliance recycler or scrap recycler to see if they will accept. Small appliances containing Freon like dehumidifiers, mini refrigerators, window air conditioners, and wine coolers are accepted at Cumberland County's fee-based electronics recycling center .
Appliances Not Containing Freon	May be able to set out as a bulk item on trash collection day – contact your municipality and/or waste collector .	Contact an appliance recycler or scrap recycler to see if they will accept. Most small appliances are accepted at Cumberland County's fee-based electronics recycling center .

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Asbestos	Not regulated if from a private home; therefore, may be disposed of with trash. Personal Protective Equipment is recommended when handling asbestos. Securely bag before placing in the trash.	May be taken directly to a disposal facility – fees apply. Use same precautionary measures as for curbside disposal.
Ashes	May be disposed of with trash. Allow ashes to cool in a non-combustible container for several days before placing in the trash. Should be bagged. If bag melts, ashes are too hot.	May be taken directly to a disposal facility – fees apply. Use same precautionary measures as for curbside disposal.
Asphalt, Brick, Concrete, & Gravel	Due to irregular shapes and quantities, curbside collection programs generally just say NO Construction & Demolition Waste with your trash. If you only have a very small quantity and small pieces that can easily fit in a trash bag with other trash, you might consider mixing it in.	Large quantity / large pieces – take directly to a disposal facility , hire someone to take it, or rent a dumpster from a waste collection company . Search local Craigslist or Facebook Marketplace for possible "fill wanted" locations as this would be considered clean fill.
Audio and Videotapes, CDs, DVDs & Records	May be disposed of with trash. DO NOT put in your curbside recycling bin.	New Hope Recycling accepts audio and videotapes for recycling.
B		
Batteries - Alkaline and Zinc Carbon Batteries (A, AA, AAA, C, D, 9V)	May be disposed of with trash. DO NOT put in your curbside recycling bin.	Batteries + Bulbs accepts alkaline batteries for recycling for a fee. Accepted at Cumberland County's fee-based electronics recycling center .
Batteries - Button Cell	May be disposed of with trash. DO NOT put in your curbside recycling bin.	Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events . Accepted at Cumberland County's fee-based electronics recycling center .

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Batteries - Lead Acid Batteries (Car, Boat, Motorcycle, Emergency Lighting, Alarm Systems etc.)	Not recommended.	Retail outlets that sell car batteries must accept used car batteries for recycling. Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
Batteries - Rechargeable Batteries (Cell phone, Laptop, Camera, Power Tool, Camcorder etc.)	Not recommended.	Some retailers have Call2Recycle collection boxes for rechargeable batteries as part of a battery product stewardship program. Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events . Accepted at Cumberland County's fee-based electronics recycling center .
Books (soft cover)	Might be able to place in your recycling bin – contact your municipality and/or waste collector . May be placed in regular trash if not accepted where you live.	A few drop boxes for books exist in the County.
Books (hard cover)	Might be able to place in your recycling bin (if the cover has been removed) – contact your municipality and/or waste collector . May be placed in regular trash if not accepted where you live.	A few drop boxes for books exist in the County. Chambersburg Waste Paper accepts hard cover books for recycling.
C		
Cardboard	May be placed in recycling bin – should be sized to fit.	May be taken to a recycling drop-off facility .
Carpet	May be able to set out as a bulk item on trash collection day – contact your municipality and/or waste collector .	May be taken directly to a disposal facility – fees apply.
Cartons (Waxed)	Might be able to place in your recycling bin – contact your municipality and/or waste collector . May be placed in regular trash if not accepted where you live.	Might be accepted at a recycling drop-off facility – contact for confirmation.

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Cell Phones	May be disposed in the trash. DO NOT place in recycling bin.	Many retailers accept rechargeable batteries and cell phones for recycling through the Call2Recycle program. Accepted at Cumberland County's fee-based electronics recycling center .
Christmas Trees	Some municipalities collect Christmas trees – contact your municipality .	Can be taken to a municipal compost site if available where you live. There are a few private yard waste recycling sites in the region – fees may apply.
Clothing and Textiles	May be disposed in the trash. DO NOT place in recycling bin.	There are many clothing collection bins scattered throughout the County.
Computers	Banned from curbside trash disposal. DO NOT place in recycling bin.	There are a few computer recycling drop-off locations in the County. Accepted at Cumberland County's fee-based electronics recycling center .
Concrete	See Asphalt, Brick, Concrete, & Gravel.	
Construction & Demolition Materials	Due to irregular shapes and quantities, curbside collection programs generally just say NO Construction & Demolition Waste with your trash. If you only have a very small quantity and small pieces that can easily fit in a trash bag with other trash, you might consider mixing it in.	May be taken directly to a disposal facility that accepts C&D waste – fees apply.
Cooking Oil	May be disposed of with trash. Absorb into vermiculite, cat litter, saw dust or other absorbent material. Divide larger quantities and dispose over several collection periods.	Search local Craigslist or Facebook Marketplace for people looking for used cooking oil. Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
Couches	May be able to set out as a bulk item on trash collection day – contact your municipality and/or waste collector . Consider hiring a junk removal company to take it – do an internet search for “junk removal near me” to find companies.	May be taken directly to a disposal facility – fees apply.

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D		
Dehumidifier	May be able to set out as a bulk item on trash collection day – contact your municipality and/or waste collector .	Contact an freon appliance recycler or scrap recycler to see if they will accept. Accepted at Cumberland County's fee-based electronics recycling center .
Driveway Sealer	Not regulated if from a private home; therefore, may be disposed of with trash. Absorb into vermiculite, cat litter, saw dust or other absorbent material. Divide larger quantities and dispose over several collection periods.	A disposal facility should accept from a homeowner if dried – fees apply. Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
Drywall	Due to irregular shapes and quantities, curbside collection programs generally just say NO Construction & Demolition Waste with your trash. If you only have a very small quantity and small pieces that can easily fit in a trash bag with other trash, you might consider mixing it in.	Large quantity / large pieces – take directly to a disposal facility , hire someone to take it, or rent a dumpster from a waste collection company .
E		
Electronic Equipment	Computer equipment and televisions are banned from trash disposal by PA law . It is legal to place other types of electronics in the trash. DO NOT place in recycling bin.	There are a few electronics recycling drop-off locations in the County. Accepted at Cumberland County's fee-based electronics recycling center .

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F		
Fire Extinguishers	May be disposed of with regular trash if all pressure has been released. DO NOT place in recycling bin.	Some fire extinguishers are rechargeable. Check the yellow pages under Fire Extinguisher Service. Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
Flares	May be disposed of with regular trash but should first be soaked in a pail of water for several days.	Try contacting your local fire department. Road flares are accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
Fluorescent Lights and Ballasts	Not regulated if from a private home; therefore, may be disposed of with trash. DO NOT place in recycling bin.	Some retailers accept compact fluorescent bulbs for recycling. Fluorescent bulbs and tubes are accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events . Ballasts with PCB oil in them are accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events . Fluorescent light bulbs and non-pcb ballasts are accepted at Cumberland County's fee-based electronics recycling center .
Fuels & Solvents	Not regulated if from a private home; therefore, may be disposed of with trash. Absorb into vermiculite, cat litter, saw dust or other absorbent material. Divide larger quantities and dispose over several collection periods.	Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
Furniture	May be able to set out as a bulk item on trash collection day – contact your municipality and/or waste collector . Consider hiring a junk removal company to take it – do an internet search for “junk removal near me” to find companies.	May be taken directly to a disposal facility – fees apply.

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G		
Gasoline	Not regulated if from a private home; therefore, may be disposed of with trash. Absorb into vermiculite, cat litter, saw dust or other absorbent material. Divide larger quantities and dispose over several collection periods.	Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
Glass	Might be able to place glass bottles and jars in your recycling bin – contact your municipality and/or waste collector . DO NOT put other types of glass (i.e. windowpanes, mirrors, light bulbs) in your recycling bin. May be placed in regular trash if not accepted where you live.	Glass bottles and jars might be accepted at a recycling drop-off facility .
Grocery Bags	DO NOT put in curbside recycling bin.	Several retailers accept plastic bags for recycling.
H		
Helium Tanks	Follow these instructions and place in recycling bin.	Follow these instructions and take to scrap recycler that will accept.
Household Hazardous Waste	Not regulated if from a private home; therefore, may be disposed of with trash. Absorb into vermiculite, cat litter, saw dust or other absorbent material. Divide larger quantities and dispose over several collection periods.	Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
Humidifier	May be able to set out as a bulk item on trash collection day – contact your municipality and/or waste collector .	Accepted at Cumberland County's fee-based electronics recycling center . May be taken directly to a disposal facility – fees apply.

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I		
Ink Cartridges	May be disposed of in regular trash. DO NOT place in recycling bin.	Ink cartridges can be dropped off at Staples or Best Buy for recycling.
Insulation	See Construction & Demolition Materials.	
J		
Junk Mail	Might be able to place in your recycling bin – contact your municipality and/or waste collector . May be placed in regular trash if not accepted where you live.	Might be accepted at a recycling drop-off facility .
K		
Kerosene	Not regulated if from a private home; therefore, may be disposed of with trash. Absorb into vermiculite, cat litter, saw dust or other absorbent material. Divide larger quantities and dispose over several collection periods.	Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
L		
Light Bulbs	Homeowners may place light bulbs in regular trash. DO NOT place in recycling bin.	Some retailers accept compact fluorescent bulbs for recycling. Fluorescent bulbs and tubes are accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events . Fluorescent bulbs and tubes are accepted at Cumberland County's fee-based electronics recycling center .

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Lumber	Due to irregular shapes and quantities, curbside collection programs generally just say NO Construction & Demolition Waste with your trash. If you only have a very small quantity and small pieces that can easily fit in a trash bag with other trash, you might consider mixing it in.	May be taken directly to a disposal facility that accepts C&D waste – fees apply.
M		
Magazines	Might be able to place in your recycling bin – contact your municipality and/or waste collector . May be placed in regular trash if not accepted where you live.	Consider dropping off at a Ronald McDonald House glossy magazine recycling program drop-off container.
Mattresses	May be able to set out as a bulk item on trash collection day – contact your municipality and/or waste collector . Consider hiring a junk removal company to take it – do an internet search for “junk removal near me” to find companies.	May be taken directly to a disposal facility – fees apply.
Medicine - Liquid	Mix with an unpalatable substance such as dirt, kitty litter, or used coffee grounds, place the mixture in a sealed plastic bag, and place in regular trash. Remove personal information from plastic bottles and place empty bottles in recycling bin.	NO

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Medicine - Pills	Mix with an unpalatable substance such as dirt, kitty litter, or used coffee grounds, place the mixture in a sealed plastic bag, and place in regular trash. Remove personal information from plastic bottles and place empty bottles in recycling bin.	Several medication collection boxes are located around the County for the collection of old pills.
Mercury (thermometers)	Not regulated if from a private home; therefore, may be disposed of with trash. DO NOT place in recycling bin.	Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
Mercury (thermostats)	Not regulated if from a private home; therefore, may be disposed of with trash. DO NOT place in recycling bin.	Find a mercury thermostat collection location offered by the Thermostat Recycling Corporation (entire thermostat must be turned in, not just the bulb with mercury). Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
Metal & Scrap	DO NOT place scrap metal in your recycling bin.	Contact a scrap recycler to see if they will accept.
Microwaves	May be able to set out as a bulk item on trash collection day – contact your municipality and/or waste collector .	Contact a scrap recycler to see if they will accept. Accepted at Cumberland County's fee-based electronics recycling center .
Motor Oil	Not regulated if from a private home; therefore, may be disposed of with trash. Absorb into vermiculite, cat litter, saw dust or other absorbent material. Divide larger quantities and dispose over several collection periods. DO NOT pour directly onto the ground.	Several retailers accept uncontaminated motor oil (new or used) for recycling. Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
N		
Needles	See Sharps.	

Item	Curbside Trash/Recycling Options	Drop-Off Trash/Recycling Options
P		
Packaging Peanuts	DO NOT place in recycling bin.	Some shipping stores accept packaging peanuts for reuse.
Paint - Latex	Unlike oil-based paint, latex paint does not possess hazardous characteristics. Trash disposal, once dried, is recommended. Absorb into vermiculite, cat litter, saw dust or other absorbent material. Divide larger quantities and dispose over several collection periods. Clean metal paint cans may be put in recycling bin.	Disposal facilities should accept dried paint. Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
Paint - Oil Based	Not regulated if from a private home; therefore, may be disposed of with trash. Absorb into vermiculite, cat litter, saw dust or other absorbent material. Divide larger quantities and dispose of them over several collection periods. Clean metal paint cans may be put in recycling bin.	Disposal facilities should accept dried paint. Oil based paint accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
Pallets	Due to irregular shapes and quantities, curbside collection programs generally just say NO Construction & Demolition Waste with your trash. If you only have a very small quantity and small pieces that can easily fit in a trash bag with other trash, you might consider mixing it in.	Use as wood for a campfire. Take directly to a disposal facility – fees apply. There are a few private wood waste recycling sites in the region that might accept pallets for recycling – fees may apply.
Paper	Might be able to place in your recycling bin – contact your municipality and/or waste collector . May be placed in regular trash if not accepted where you live.	Might be accepted at a recycling drop-off facility .

Item	Curbside Trash/Recycling Options	Drop-Off Trash/Recycling Options
Pesticides	Not regulated if from a private home; therefore, may be disposed of with trash. If liquid, absorb into vermiculite, cat litter, saw dust or other absorbent material. Divide larger quantities and dispose over several collection periods.	Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
Plastic	Generally, plastic bottles, jugs and jars can be placed in your recycling bin, but contact your municipality and/or waste collector to confirm.	Plastic bottles, jugs and jars might be accepted at a recycling drop-off facility . Check with facility to see if they accept other types of plastic.
Plastic Bottle Caps	Some recyclers say to leave on, some say must take off; therefore, it is recommended you contact your recycler for specific instructions.	Some recyclers say to leave on, some say must take off; therefore, it is recommended you contact the recycling drop-off facility for specific instructions.
Pool Chemicals	Not regulated if from a private home; therefore, may be disposed of with trash. Individually bag. Do not expose to water.	Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
Propane Tanks	Small propane tanks (1 pounders) can be placed in the trash if completely evacuated . Divide larger quantities and dispose over several collection periods. Consider buying an adapter that allows you to refill them from a larger propane tank.	Contact a scrap recycler to see if they will accept. There are a few drop-off locations for the larger propane tanks . Propane tanks (up to 20 pounders) are accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .

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R		
Railroad ties	Due to irregular shapes and quantities, curbside collection programs generally just say NO Construction & Demolition Waste with your trash. If you only have a very small quantity and small pieces that can easily fit in a trash bag with other trash, you might consider mixing it in.	Large quantity / large pieces – take directly to a disposal facility , hire someone to take it, or rent a dumpster from a waste collection company .
Refrigerator	May be able to set out as a bulk item on trash collection day – contact your municipality and/or waste collector .	Contact an freon appliance recycler or scrap recycler to see if they will accept. Mini refrigerators accepted at Cumberland County's fee-based electronics recycling center .
S		
Sharps	Sharps should be placed in a puncture-resistant hard plastic or metal container. Container lid should be secured with heavy duty tape. Place the container in a paper bag and discard with your household trash. It is recommended to disinfect sharps with a solution of one teaspoon of bleach in a half gallon of water. DO NOT place sharps in recycling bin.	If you would prefer to mail sharps to a processor rather than disposing of them in the trash, many local drug stores and online healthcare retailers sell mail back sharps containers.

Item	Curbside Trash/Recycling Options	Drop-Off Trash/Recycling Options
Shingles	Due to irregular shapes and quantities, curbside collection programs generally just say NO Construction & Demolition Waste with your trash. If you only have a very small quantity and small pieces that can easily fit in a trash bag with other trash, you might consider mixing it in.	Large quantity / large pieces – take directly to a disposal facility , hire someone to take it, or rent a dumpster from a waste collection company .
Smoke Detectors	Homeowners may place in regular trash.	Many brands of smoke detectors are returnable to their original manufacturers – fees may apply.
Solvents	Not regulated if from a private home; therefore, may be disposed of with trash. Absorb into vermiculite, cat litter, saw dust or other absorbent material. Divide larger quantities and dispose over several collection periods.	Accepted during the County's fee-based HHW collection events .
Styrofoam	Place in regular trash. DO NOT place in recycling bin.	New Hope Recycling accepts styrofoam.
T		
Tapes	See Audio and Videotapes, CDs, DVDs & Records.	
Telephone Books	Might be able to place in your recycling bin – contact your municipality and/or waste collector . May be placed in regular trash if not accepted where you live.	May be taken to a recycling drop-off facility .
Televisions	Banned from curbside trash disposal. DO NOT put in recycling bin.	Accepted at Cumberland County's fee-based electronics recycling center . Cumberland County operates a fee-based electronics recycling center . Other possible outlets are listed here . Please read entirely for all details.

Item	Curbside Trash/Recycling Options	Drop-Off Trash/Recycling Options
Tires	May be able to set out as a bulk item on trash collection day – contact your municipality and/or waste collector .	Small quantity – many places that sell tires accept tires for recycling – fees apply. Large quantity – consider taking directly to a tire recycler . Sign up for Cumberland County’s fee-based tire recycling events .
Toner & Laser Cartridges	May be disposed of in regular trash. DO NOT place in recycling bin.	Toner cartridges can be dropped off for recycling at Staples and Best Buy .
V		
Vinyl Siding	Due to irregular shapes and quantities, curbside collection programs generally just say NO Construction & Demolition Waste with your trash. If you only have a very small quantity and small pieces that can easily fit in a trash bag with other trash, you might consider mixing it in. DO NOT place in recycling bin.	May be taken directly to a disposal facility that accepts C&D waste – fees apply.
W		
White Goods	May be able to set out as a bulk item on trash collection day – contact your municipality and/or waste collector .	Contact an appliance recycler or scrap recycler to see if they will accept.
Wood	See Lumber.	

Item	Curbside Trash/Recycling Options	Drop-Off Trash/Recycling Options
X		
X-Ray Film	May be disposed of in regular trash. DO NOT place in recycling bin.	A Doctor's Office of Hospital may accept for recycling. X-Ray film recyclers can be found online that either pick-up x-rays or accept them through mail. Do a web search on "x-ray film recycling".
Y		
Yard Waste	Some municipalities in Cumberland County have yard waste recycling sites for their residents. Some collect yard waste at the curb at certain times of the year – contact your municipality and/or waste collector .	There are a few private yard waste recycling sites in the region – fees may apply.