

Curbside Recycling FAQs

What is the schedule for pickups in my neighborhood?

In South Orange, weekly pickup on **Thursday** is for residents who live on all streets to the **WEST** of Scotland Road and Valley Street. Weekly pickup on **Friday** for residents who live on Scotland Road and Valley Street and all streets to the **EAST** of Scotland Road and Valley Street.

What time of day is my recycling picked up?

It could be anytime during the day of your pickup depending on how smoothly the route goes for the hauler that day. We suggest putting your recycling Toter out to the curb the night before your pickup.

How do I report a missed pick up?

Contact our hauler *F. Basso, Jr. Rubbish Removal* at 973.483.1671. Give your address, including town, and the date of missed pickup. This is a message service only; you will not get a return call.

What if my pickup day falls on a holiday? Snow day?

In general, if your pickup day falls on a major holiday, then pickup will be made on the next non-holiday pickup day. For instance, in South Orange, if your pickup day is Thursday, Thanksgiving pickup would be the Friday after Thanksgiving and regular Friday pickup would slide to Saturday.

Snow and weather delays depend on the seriousness of the event. For schedule updates, check the news section of the Village's website, Village social media, or the free Recycle Coach app.

What are my options if I miss a pickup or the load is rejected due to contamination?

You can wait until the next scheduled pickup (of the same type, Fiber or Commingled) or you can bring it to the DPW Recycling Center at 300 Walton Avenue during operating hours (T, Th, Sat) for self-sorting. If the load has been rejected due to contamination, be sure to remove the contaminating items and put them in the trash.

Why are there different pickup weeks for different materials?

Our curbside pickup is dual stream. Meaning that recyclable materials need to be separated for two distinct pickups on alternating weeks: one week exclusively for **Fibers** (cardboard, paper) and the next week for **Commingled** (plastic, glass, and metal containers). The dual stream process avoids cross contamination of recyclables and the town is charged a lower rate at the separation facility, meaning that more of what is recyclable gets recycled more cost effectively. Cross contaminated loads or materials put out on the wrong week will not be picked up as there is no way for our hauler to keep them separate within their truck.

What does “contamination” mean?

It can mean a number of things. In our dual stream system, it can mean having paper in your recycling Toter on a commingled pickup week or it can mean having plastics without a number in your commingled pick up. It can also mean putting things in the recycling Toter which should never be there (garden hoses, wire hangers, broken glass, etc.). The most common forms of contamination come from “wish-cycling” things like plastic bags*, food waste, medical waste, batteries*, hazardous or liquid waste, wood, metal and plastic items which are NOT recyclable in the curbside system.

Check call2recycle.org, earth911.com, or the Recycle Coach app to find local recycling options for things which can't go into the curbside system.

When in doubt, throw it out (in the trash). Never include batteries, plastic bags, plastic film, hoses, broken glass, polystyrene foam, wood, food waste, corks, clothing, aerosol cans under pressure, motor oil containers, ceramic plates, cups and mugs.

*South Orange has drop boxes for film plastic and household batteries at select Village buildings. Visit southorange.org for details.

What about milk and juice cartons, are they fibers or commingled?

Milk cartons, orange juice cartons, and 1-liter brick Tetra Pak/aseptic juice, milk, soy milk, soup, etc. boxes are considered recyclable and should be included with **COMMINGLED** pickup. Gable top cartons with plastic spouts can be included without removing the spout.

Can I purchase a recycling Toter from the Village?

Yes. Custom Toter brand recycling containers are available for purchase from the Village in 96 Gallon and 48 Gallon sizes. Specifications, pricing, and an order form can be found on the website under “Curbside Recycling”. However, these custom Village Toters are not required for your recycling to be picked up. Any weather proof container, marked for recycling, can be used.

Can I use a second container other than a Toter?

Yes, but make sure it is sturdy and rain-resistant with a well-fitting lid. Ideally blue or green and marked with a recycling symbol.

How do I recycle items that can't go in curbside bins?

Some items that are not accepted in curbside recycling can be brought directly to the DPW recycling center at 300 Walton Avenue. In addition to Fibers and Commingled items, we can also accept scrap metals, Freon containing appliances, yard debris, used clothing, and used motor oil. Additionally, we have drop boxes for film plastics in the Library lobby - 298 Walton Ave, SO Recreation and Cultural Affairs lobby - 5 Mead St, and South Orange Village Offices at 76 South Orange Ave, 3rd Floor. We also have a drop box for common household batteries at 298 Walton Ave. You can also download the free Recycle Coach app or check call2recycle.org for additional directions on recycling non curbside materials.