

2023 Curbside Recycling FAQs

What is the schedule for pick ups in my neighborhood?

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

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

If your pick up day falls on a major holiday, then pick up will be made on the next non-holiday pickup day. For instance, in South Orange, if your pick up day is Thursday, Thanksgiving pickup would be the Friday after Thanksgiving.

Snow and weather delays depend on the seriousness of the event. Check with the hauler for updates related to our community and your neighborhood. *F. Basso, Jr. Rubbish Removal* at 973.483.1671.

How do I report a missed pick up?

First check your toter for a tag that explains if your toter was not picked up due to a contamination problem. If there is no tag, contact our hauler *F. Basso, Jr. Rubbish Removal* at 973.483.1671.

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 during operating hours (T, Th, Sat). 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?

Curbside pickup is now 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). Cross contaminated loads or materials put out on the wrong week will not be picked up. The dual stream process avoids cross contamination of recyclables and the town is charged a lower rate meaning that more of what *is* recyclable *actually gets* recycled more cost effectively.

What does “contamination” mean?

It can mean a number of things. In our dual stream system it can mean having paper in your toter on a commingled pick up week or it can mean having plastics numbered 3,4,6, or 7 (which we don't accept) in your commingled pick up. It can also mean putting things in the toter which should never be there (garden hoses, plastics with no number, broken glass, etc). The most common forms of contamination are plastic bags, packing materials like styrofoam/pressed fiber and plastic liner bags, and materials that are not recyclable curbside, "wish-cycling." . **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. Keep this [flyer with guidelines](#) somewhere handy near your indoor recycling bins.

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

Milk cartons, orange juice cartons, and small and 1-liter brick TetraPak/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.

Will I be given another Toter?

Not at this time. As pick up is staggered weekly you will probably find you don't need a second toter. We suggest collecting/sorting materials indoors and only putting those materials in the toter that are to be picked up that week (fiber or commingled). If you determine that you need a second toter, they are available for sale from your 973.378.7741.

Can I use a second container other than a Toter?

Yes, but make sure it is sturdy and rain-resistant with a tight fitting lid. Ideally blue or green and marked with a recycling symbol, but a regular garbage can will do as long as there is no danger of confusion with trash where trash and recycling pick up days coincide.

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

You can bring some items directly to the DPW facility and self sort them there. You can also download the free Recycle Coach app for directions on recycling non curbside materials. [See bottom of Recycling page here.](#)

Why can't I recycle all plastics (#1-7) curbside?

Only plastics marked #1, #2, & #5 are accepted in our curbside recycling program and at our DPW facility. The market for recycling numbers 3, 4, 6, & 7 is not sufficient to make them cost effective for collection. We suggest decreasing your use of these single use plastics.