



REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

Reduce, reuse and recycle more now for cleaner land, air, water, and a thriving economy.

Montgomery County, Maryland has a goal to reduce waste and recycle 70 percent of all waste by 2020. Montgomery County requires all businesses, including retailers, to recycle mixed paper, commingled materials (aluminum cans and foil products, bi-metal food and beverage cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic bottles and containers), scrap metal, yard trim and Christmas trees.

These days, consumers are shopping for more than

clothes and furnishings. They are shopping for retailers. Specifically, retailers have many opportunities to reduce and recycle their waste. Work with your property manager to team up with other retailers in a mall or shopping center to share storage space for recyclable materials and collection costs. Set recycling standards that waste and recycling collection companies must meet to secure your account.

Since stores are continually receiving shipments of

merchandise, packaging materials make up a large portion of retail waste. By reusing and recycling these materials, retailers can significantly reduce their waste disposal costs.

Retailers should select a recycling coordinator from their business or from the shopping center in which they are located. Then, develop an action plan for achieving responsible waste management, including specific, quantifiable goals.

REDUCE

- Communicate your desire to receive products that are packaged in materials that are both recycled and recyclable to your suppliers.
- Save hangers for reuse. Take back hangers from customers.
- Work with suppliers to reduce packaging and offer products that are not over-packaged.
- Require suppliers to take their pallets back.

REUSE

- Reuse packing materials for outgoing shipments. If you can't use them, find someone who can. Local shipping companies may accept donated packaging materials for reuse.
- Repair and reuse shipping pallets.
- Encourage the use of durable mugs, glasses and flatware in the employee lounge and break rooms, instead of using disposable cups and utensils.
- Reuse crates, boxes, baskets and pails as many times as possible.
- If you have extra clothes hangers, donate them to a local dry-cleaning company.

RECYCLE

- Recycle corrugated cardboard boxes and all mixed paper.
- Recycle scrap metal such as shelving units. Contact a scrap metal recycling company for collection services or self-haul to a scrap metal recycler. Check with your property manager to determine if scrap metal collection areas are provided for your store.
- Provide employees with the opportunity to recycle aluminum, steel and tin cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles and containers, mixed paper and cardboard. Check to see if your property manager provides recycling services as part of your lease.
- Businesses that sell food and beverages in recyclable packaging must make recycling containers available for their customers to use. The food court or other restaurants located in a shopping center must offer recycling of commingled materials for patrons.
- Provide recycling education as a part of new employee orientation information. Walk the new employees through the recycling program. Demonstrate to employees how to separate cardboard and prepare other recyclables. Periodically, provide positive reinforcement during staff meetings.
- Tell your customers about your successful recycling program. Many consumers seek out businesses that practice environmentally sound policies.



Montgomery County's Ban on Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Ware and Loose Fill Packaging Materials



The use and sale of expanded polystyrene food service ware, and expanded polystyrene loose fill packaging (packaging peanuts) is prohibited in Montgomery County, Maryland.

In addition, all food service establishments, including grocery stores and supermarkets, must use either recyclable or compostable food service ware.

Prohibiting the use and sale of expanded polystyrene food service products and loose fill packaging, will help protect our environment and reduce litter.

For more information about the law, as well as a list of vendors that offer recyclable or compostable food service ware, visit our website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.

**REDUCE,
REUSE &
RECYCLE
MORE NOW!**

Take part in what Montgomery County is doing to reduce waste and recycle more now! We'd like to add your retail business to our list of recyclers, so let us know how you are doing! If you have a concern or issue you wish to discuss, or a success story you want to share, contact the Smart Organizations Reduce and Recycle Tons (SORRT) Program.

3-1-1 or 240-777-0311

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling



Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Solid Waste Services
Waste Reduction and Recycling Section



Printed on recycled and recyclable paper.