

Recycling in Wilton, CT



Is recycling mandatory in Connecticut?

Recycling is mandated by law in the State of Connecticut. Residents, businesses, non-profits, and all public and private agencies and institutions must recycle.

According to the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, source reduction – the reduction of waste at or near the source of generation (in our homes, businesses, and institutions) and reuse of waste are the best ways to divert the growing volume of waste. The reason is simple: the less waste generated, the less waste there is to dispose. Reduction and reuse are cost-saving, resource-conserving, and environmentally sound alternatives to traditional forms of solid waste management.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! All citizens share the responsibility.

What do you need to know about recycling?

Residents need to separate designated recyclables from other solid waste.

Municipalities must instruct garbage collectors/haulers to issue warning notices to customers suspected of violating separation requirements.

Collectors/haulers must notify Wilton's Department of Public Works coordinator of recycling about any customer who is disposing of designated recyclables with solid waste.

How do I figure out what goes in my recycling bin?

The Town of Wilton, CT practices single stream recycling which is a collection system that mixes all recyclable paper fibers and containers together.

Connecticut now has a universal list of what belongs in your recycling bin and what doesn't. Refer to RecycleCT Foundation's *A Guide to Recycling: What's IN? What's OUT?* All items should be empty, rinsed, clean, and open. Do not shred, box, bag, or bundle. To learn more, go to RecycleCT.com.

Wilton residents who have a resident vehicle permit sticker may bring recyclables to the Wilton Transfer Station free of charge. Visit the Department of Public Works – Transfer Station page at wiltonct.org for more information on the Transfer Station, how to get a vehicle sticker, and recyclables accepted at the Transfer Station.

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How can I help reduce, reuse, recycle?

Here are a number of ways you can reduce, reuse, and recycle in Wilton:

Make smart shopping decisions. Shop local and reduce packaging waste created by mail order shopping.

Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB). Bring your own bag to supermarkets reducing the number of plastic bags put into circulation. What to do with plastic bags? Do not put plastic bags into your recycling bin. Clean and dry plastic bags are recyclable but they must be dropped off at specially designated collection spots like the ones you see at local markets. Watch this informative video on [Why You Shouldn't Recycle Plastic Bags at Home](#) to learn more.

Reduce excess paper at home. Take these steps to reduce excess paper at home:

- Junk Your Junk Mail. Opt out of receiving junk mail by visiting [dmachoice.org](#).
- Don't use that bulky phone book any longer? Opt out of receiving phone books by visiting [yellowpagesoptout.com](#).
- Tired of receiving catalogs you don't use? Cancel your catalogs by visiting [catalogchoice.org](#).
- Switch to paperless bills. Many vendors allow you to switch to paperless bills. Contact vendors for how-to instructions.

Donate your unwanted goods. There are a number of venues that will accept donated items such as clothing, household goods, and furniture:

- [Minks to Sinks](#) held at the Wilton High School complex in the fall and spring of each year.
- [The Turnover Shop](#) located at 98 Old Ridgefield Road, Wilton.
- Middlebrook School Recycling Bin located in back parking lot at 131 School Road, Wilton.
- [Goodwill Wilton Donation Station](#) at 17 Danbury Road, Wilton.
- Recycle your wireless phone for free at [thewirelessalliance.com](#) donation bin located in the front hall of Wilton Town Hall, 238 Danbury Road, Wilton.
- [Wilton Library Association](#) accepts donations of books, eyeglasses, and cellphones.

Return recyclables to retailers. A variety of recyclables can be returned to the retailer including: car batteries, cell phones, dry cleaner hangers, fire extinguishers, packing peanuts, phone books, plastic bags, printer cartridges, propane tanks, and waste oil.

Use rechargeable batteries. Rechargeable batteries can easily and conveniently be recharged with a battery charger. They perform better than traditional batteries, save time and money, and help reduce waste.

Use refillable bottles and reusable containers. Take refillable cups for drinks/coffee on the go. Pack a waste-free lunch for you or your family members. Check out the Environmental Protection Agency's [Pack A Waste-Free Lunch](#) guide.

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Compost at home. Reduce your trash output by composting food scraps and yard trimmings at home into a high nutrient compost for your garden. Check out the State of CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's website on [Composting and Organics Recycling](#)

Participate in CT Don't Trash Grass! This program encourages homeowners to leave their grass clippings on the lawn, which returns valuable nutrients to the soil and removes them from the waste stream. Check out the State of CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's website on [Grass Recycling](#).

Go to annual HazWaste and E-Waste Recycling Collection Days. The Wilton Conservation Commission hosts an annual HazWaste Collection day in October of each year and the Department of Public Works hosts an E-Waste Recycling and Hard Drive Shredding Day each November. Visit wiltonct.org for information on upcoming events.

Questions?

Contact the Town's coordinator for recycling at the Wilton Department of Public Works at (203) 563-0152 or visit wiltonct.org.

A Guide to Recycling

Connecticut now has a universal list of what belongs in your recycling bin and what doesn't. All items should be **empty, rinsed, clean** and **open**. Do **not** shred, box, bag or bundle. To learn more, go to RecycleCT.com

What's **IN**?

PAPER

- Cardboard & boxboard
- Food & beverage cartons
- Junk mail
- Magazines & newspaper inserts
- Newsprint
- Office paper
- Pizza boxes

GLASS

- Beverage bottles & jars
- Food bottles & jars

METAL

- Aerosol containers (food grade only)
- Aluminum foil
- Cans & bottles
- Foil containers
- Metal lids from cans & bottles

PLASTIC

- Plastic bottles (with or without caps attached)
- Plastic containers, tubs & lids
- Plastic one-use cups (no lids, no straws)

What's **OUT**?

- Gift wrap & gift bags
- Ice cream containers
- Paper cups (hot & cold)
- Shredded paper
- Take-out food containers
- Tissue paper

- Ceramic mugs & plates
- Drinking glasses

- Aerosol containers (deodorizers, cleaners, pesticides, etc.)
- Foil tops from yogurt containers
- Paint cans
- Pots & pans
- Small pieces of scrap metal
- Spiral wound containers

- Loose bottle caps
- Plastic bags & wrap
- Plastic plates, bowls & utensils
- Prescription bottles
- Single-use coffee containers
- Styrofoam cups, containers & packaging peanuts
- Water filters

