

# 2017 RECYCLING GUIDE AND CURBSIDE COLLECTION GUIDE

## CURBSIDE COLLECTION

### CONTAINERS

Containers used for single-stream collection in the MCIA's program include:

- A rectangular blue container with lid
- A round blue container

Write your name and address on the containers. Place your recyclables in the containers and put the containers out on the curb before 6 a.m. on your collection day.

**Collection times are subject to change, and all materials must be ready for pick-up by 6 a.m.**

### NOT ACCEPTED!

- Recyclables in plastic bags
- Recyclables in containers not at the curb, such as those left near the house, garage or at the top of the driveway

**Replacement Containers:** If your containers are lost, stolen or broken, replacement containers can be purchased from your municipal recycling coordinator. The phone number is listed in the municipal section of this brochure. We sell these containers to your municipality at the same price we pay the manufacturer.

**New Homeowners:** Contact your municipal recycling coordinator within three months of moving in to obtain free containers. Contact numbers can be found in the municipal section of this brochure.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE PLEDGE

The Middlesex County Improvement Authority strives to provide the best quality of services to ensure our residents and patrons have a satisfactory experience. Should you have any questions, concerns or compliments, feel free to contact the Recycling Manager at [mciarecycling@mciauth.com](mailto:mciarecycling@mciauth.com).

## THE NEW REUSE-IT BOOK

The New Reuse-It Book is a guide to area locations where Middlesex County residents can recycle or donate their unwanted goods for reuse. The MCIA has made this most recent edition available online at [www.mciauth.com](http://www.mciauth.com) for anyone who would like electronic access to the most up-to-date information. If interested in a free printed copy or possible inclusion in the next edition, contact MCIA Public Information Officer, Maria Prato, by emailing [mp@mciauth.com](mailto:mp@mciauth.com).

## E-CYCLING

By law, most consumer electronics, including personal computers (desktops and laptops), monitors and televisions are not allowed in the trash. Check with your municipality's Department of Public Works to inquire if they maintain a recycling drop-off and if these items are acceptable. For additional drop-off locations, please contact the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection at (866) 337-5669 or the Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management at (732) 745-4170.

## ACCEPTED RECYCLABLE ITEMS

### NEWSPAPER & MIXED PAPER

Newspaper, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, brown paper bags, nonmetallic wrapping paper, office records, computer paper, file folders, receipts, telephone books, softcover books, hardcover books, greeting cards, paperboard, such as non-wax-coated food and cereal boxes, pizza boxes, tissue boxes, shoe boxes and gift boxes.

If you have more newspaper and mixed paper than you can fit in your container, place the overflow in brown paper grocery bags (not plastic grocery bags). Additional newspaper may be bundled, tied and placed next to your container.

### NOT ACCEPTED!

- Newspaper and mixed paper in plastic bags or paper leaf bags

### CARDBOARD/PAPERBOARD

Corrugated cardboard, layered cardboard with a center that is shaped into ridges, folds or grooves (such as shipping boxes and the packaging for most appliances or larger household items). **Flatten, bundle and securely tie the cardboard and tie the sheets into stacks no larger than 48 inches square and 12 inches high. These items may be placed next to recycling containers.**

### NOT ACCEPTED!

- Cardboard in bundles larger than 48 inches square
- Cardboard in plastic bags

*NOTE: The maximum number of recycling bundles of cardboard and/or paper bags of mixed paper that the collector will pick up from individual households, each collection, is six (6).*

### CANS, BOTTLES AND PLASTIC

#### COMMINGLED RECYCLABLES

Place metal cans, glass and plastic bottles in an appropriate container. Any overflow can be placed in your own unlined plastic or metal container (no larger than 32 gallons in capacity or exceeding 50 pounds in weight). **Please do not overfill containers.**

**Metal:** Tin, steel, aluminum and bimetal cans (such as soda, beer, canned pet food, soup and tuna cans). Rinse the cans and crush them to maximize capacity. We take the lids too.

**Glass:** Glass bottles and jars of all colors (such as juice, soda, beer and liquor bottles, mayonnaise and spaghetti sauce jars). Rinse the bottles and jars. Remove and dispose of lids.

**Plastic:** #1 PETE and #2 HDPE containers (such as milk and juice jugs, water bottles, laundry detergent, shampoo and soda bottles). Check the bottom of the container to make sure the plastic is either #1 PETE or #2 HDPE. Rinse the containers and crush them to maximize capacity. Remove and dispose of caps.

### NOT ACCEPTED!

- drinking glasses
- window glass
- mirrors
- Pyrex® glassware
- light bulbs

- plastic toys
- plastic packaging
- aluminum foil
- gardening or garage plastics
- polystyrene or Styrofoam™ (such as plastic cups or food trays)

## RECYCLING SERVICE INFORMATION

(800) 488-6242 (MCIA)

Municipal recycling schedules available at

[www.mciauth.com](http://www.mciauth.com)

### MCIA DIVISION OF RECYCLING

55 Edgeboro Road

East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Phone: (800) 488-MCIA

Fax: (732) 628-0338

Email: [mciarecycling@mciauth.com](mailto:mciarecycling@mciauth.com)

Edward J. Windas, *Recycling Manager*

### MCIA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

101 Interchange Plaza Ste. 202

Cranbury, NJ 08512

Phone: (609) 655-5141

Fax: (609) 655-4748

Email: [mciadmin@mciauth.com](mailto:mciadmin@mciauth.com)

Website: [www.mciauth.com](http://www.mciauth.com)

### MCIA BOARD

Leonard J. Roseman, *Chairman*

Robert J. Mantz

Anthony Raczynski

Paul Abbey

Richard Zangara

H. James Polos, *Executive Director*

Carol Bellante, *Freeholder & MCIA Liaison*

### MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

Ronald G. Rios, *Freeholder Director*

Carol Bellante, *Deputy Freeholder Director*

Kenneth Armwood

Charles Kenny

Shanti Narra

Charles E. Tomaro

Blanquita B. Valenti

*Requests for assistance or materials in alternate formats should be directed to*

**Maria Prato** by phone at (609) 655-5141, through the New Jersey Relay Service at (800) 852-7899 or by email at [mp@mciauth.com](mailto:mp@mciauth.com).

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# MIDDLESEX COUNTY 2017



Art rendered by second grader Nagsai Kodali of Plainsboro

# PLAINSBORO Recycling Guide

**MCIA**   
MIDDLESEX COUNTY  
IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

As of March 30, 2015, the Middlesex County Improvement Authority has transitioned to single-stream recycling collection. Now all curbside recyclable items, such as bottles, cans, paper and small flat cardboard can be mixed together in a single recycling container as long as they are kept separate from trash.

### MONDAYS

## CURBSIDE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

January	9 • 23	July	10 • 24
February	6 • 20	August	7 • 21
March	6 • 20	September	*9 • 18
April	3 • 17	October	2 • 16 • 30
May	1 • 15	November	13 • 27
June	*3 • 12 • 26	December	11 • *30

\***Memorial Day:** May 29 changed to June 3.

\***Labor Day:** September 4 changed to September 9.

\***Christmas Day:** December 25 changed to December 30.

**NOTE:** Municipal Public Works holidays do NOT affect the recycling collection schedule.

thank you...  
for your commitment to  
recycling and for helping to  
make Middlesex County a  
New Jersey recycling leader.

"Middlesex County is definitely eco-friendly as a result of the variety of recycling programs offered to residents for paper, newspaper, cardboard, cans as well as yard waste, grass, household hazardous waste, paint, paper shredding and tires."

-Carol Bellante,  
Freeholder & MCIA Liaison

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

(609) 799-0099

Neil L. Blitz, Supt. of Public Works/Recycling Coordinator

**Recycling Hotline: (800) 488-6242 (MCIA)** for curbside recycling collection, service matters & general information.

**Notifications and/or changes to any Township scheduled programs will be posted on our website at [www.plainsboronj.com](http://www.plainsboronj.com).**

## WEATHER EMERGENCIES

Check with the DPW at (609) 799-0099 or at [www.plainsboronj.com](http://www.plainsboronj.com) for changes in collection schedules due to weather emergencies or other emergency situations. You may also check for changes on the website at [www.mciauth.com](http://www.mciauth.com).

## SPECIAL ITEMS

Plainsboro's Conservation Center serves Township residents only. No commercial vehicles allowed.

**PLAINSBORO'S CONSERVATION CENTER** is located off Grovers Mill Road. The hours of operation are:

**Spring-Fall:** April 1, 2017 – December 8, 2017

Monday, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Winter:** December 9, 2017 – March 31, 2018

Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. only

Please call Township Public Works Dept. at (609) 799-0099.

**ITEMS ACCEPTED:** Loose grass clippings, leaves, brush, motor oil, auto oil filters, auto batteries, auto tires and auto antifreeze. Items collected through the curbside recycling program are NOT accepted for drop-off at the Conservation Center.

**BULKY WASTE ITEMS** such as furniture, appliances, bicycles, etc., are accepted at the Conservation Center four times annually.

- **Saturday Dates for 2017:** April 1, June 10, August 12 and November 4

- **Bulky Waste Hours:** 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

- **Bulky waste items will be accepted for drop-off on these days ONLY and are NOT collected curbside. Construction and renovation debris WILL NOT be accepted.**

**TRASH AND RECYCLING** collections may occur on the same day in some areas. Please be especially careful in using additional containers for your recyclables. Be certain that additional containers are open, without tops and placed at the curb with your blue MCIA containers, so that they are not mistaken for trash.

## COUNTY PROGRAMS

Please refer to the MCIA staff at 1-800-488-6242 (MCIA) or at [www.mciauth.com](http://www.mciauth.com) for more information on:

- Household Hazardous Waste
- Paint Drop Off
- Compost Bins
- Paper Shredding
- Tire Disposal

## CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUESTS

To determine the cause of a service interruption or missed pick-up, please note whether:

- It's your municipality's day and/or week
- Your recycling was put out by the curb no later than 6 a.m.
- Your entire street's recycling has been affected
- A container no larger than 32 gallon has been used
- Any unapproved items are mixed within your recycling
- Your recycling was placed in plastic bags, which are not permitted

If you still have a concern, comment or question regarding your recycling pick-up, please send an email to [mciaurecycling@mciauth.com](mailto:mciaurecycling@mciauth.com), making sure to leave a name, address and telephone number in the body of the message so that a representative may contact you at their earliest availability.

## LEAVES, BRUSH & GRASS

**LEAVES** are collected by section from late October through mid-December, weather permitting. Leaves shall be raked to the curb, but no closer than 10 feet to any storm drain inlet. Leaf piles shall contain no other form of debris; piles that contain debris shall be considered contaminated and will not be collected. Leaves are only allowed to be placed for collection no earlier than seven days prior to scheduled collection.

**BRUSH** is defined as trimmings from trees, shrubs and vines. Please leave branches as long as possible, but not to exceed 6 feet in length. Not accepted with brush collections are leaves, roots, stumps, grass, thatch, mulch, soil, sand, landscape construction materials and any form of non-vegetative debris.

Brush is collected on an alternate-month schedule from March – October and shall be placed at the curb or along the street directly abutting homeowners' property lines no earlier than seven days prior to a scheduled collection and no later than the first Monday of a scheduled month.

Residents not wanting to wait for their scheduled collection may bring their **leaves and brush** to the Conservation Center located off Grovers Mill Road.

**GRASS CLIPPINGS** may be brought loose to the Conservation Center, located off Grovers Mill Road.

**ENFORCEMENT** can occur to those residents not in compliance with the above.

## MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS

Please refer to your municipal contacts for information on consumer electronics and yard-waste disposal. For further details on consumer electronics drop-off sites, contact the Department of Environmental Protection at 1-866-337-5669 or at [www.nj.gov/dep](http://www.nj.gov/dep).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IF MY COLLECTION DAY FALLS ON A HOLIDAY?

If your collection day falls on any of these holidays - New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving or Christmas - collection is rescheduled for the following Saturday. Check your municipal collection schedule in this brochure for specific dates.

**Recycling collection is *not affected* by municipal public works holidays** such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Lincoln's Birthday, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Columbus Day, Election Day or Veterans Day. Recycling collections will take place on those days.

### WHAT DO THE STICKERS ON MY RECYCLABLE ITEMS MEAN?

These are rejection stickers. The most common reasons for rejection are:

- Trash mixed in with recyclables
- Containers larger than 32 gallons
- Recyclables in plastic bags
- Cardboard not properly prepared

Only recyclables that are properly prepared will be collected.

### WHAT IF MY RECYCLABLES WERE NOT COLLECTED?

Your recyclables should be placed curbside the night before your scheduled pick-up or by 6 a.m. on the day of the pick-up. Collection times are subject to change, and all material must be ready for pick-up by 6 a.m.

If your recyclables were out at the curb on time and were not collected, leave the recycling at the curb and contact us within 24 hours. If you delay contacting us, your recyclables may not be picked up until your next collection date.

Keep in mind to check our website at [www.mciauth.com](http://www.mciauth.com), under the Recycling Division's **Customer Notification** page, for updates, instructions or information on service interruptions.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION

As part of our commitment to protect the environment and promote good recycling practices, the MCIA Education Department offers free recycling presentations to schools, civic and business organizations, senior groups and more.

We now have the latest version of M.C. Blue, the County's fully recyclable robot. Accompanied by an MCIA representative, M.C. Blue is the star of the recycling programs. He has both audio and video capabilities and his presentations are entertaining, as well as educational.

Offerings:

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| "Planet Beauty"              | pre-K to grade 2               |
| "Recycle It or Not"          | pre-K to grade 2 or grades 3-6 |
| "Recycling Trivia Challenge" | grades 3-6 or adult            |
| "Recycling Show & Tell"      | grade 3 - adult                |
| "Energy: Less is More"       | grades 3-6                     |
| "Recycling & the Landfill"   | high school and adult          |

Bookings are on a first-come, first-serve basis. For information and reservations, call the MCIA Education Office at 609-409-5033 or email [ja@mciauth.com](mailto:ja@mciauth.com).