

# DENVER HARD-TO-RECYCLE GUIDE

*Created by Congress Park Neighbors Green Team*

The City of Denver website ([www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles](http://www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles)) lists all items that can be recycled in the purple bin or composted in the green bin. The site also has a searchable database that allows you to type in the name of an item to find out if it can be recycled and where.

**Did you know** that **textiles** are the second most polluting industry on earth behind only oil and gas? Currently, 85% of clothing is thrown out. Every clothing item donated saves 7 pounds of CO2 from the atmosphere and 2,700 liters of water. **arc Thrift Stores** is a non-profit organization dedicated to individuals living with intellectual/developmental disabilities. They accept donations of any clothing, household goods, furniture, sporting goods and small electronic appliances in good working order. When the quality isn't high enough for US consumers, arc bundles the clothes and sells garments abroad where there is still value for many of these items. To schedule a curb side pick-up, please call 303-238-5263 or visit the website: [www.arcthrift.com/donation/schedule-donation-2.html](http://www.arcthrift.com/donation/schedule-donation-2.html).

**Blue Star Recyclers** is a nonprofit that creates jobs for people with autism and other disabilities through recycling electronics for a small fee. They are certified at the highest environmental standards for e-recycling. They accept all computers and computer equipment including printers, all TVs and monitors, VCRs, DVD, stereos, consoles, small appliances such as microwaves, coffeemakers, toasters, lamps, vacuum cleaners, all wire and connectors, alkaline and rechargeable batteries, fluorescent bulbs: [www.bluestarrecyclers.com](http://www.bluestarrecyclers.com) (303-534-1667, 953 Decatur Street).

**SustainAbility's** Hard-to-Recycle Center is a non-profit that serves clients with intellectual disabilities. They charge a \$3 entrance fee or a price-per-item/pound depending on the material. They accept a wide range of items from vegetable oil to books to propane tanks to pots & pans and tennis balls! See the website for a list: [www.sustainability-recycling.com](http://www.sustainability-recycling.com) (1270 S. Bannock, 303-424-1719).

**PaintCare** is funded by a fee paid by paint manufacturers for each can of paint they sell in Colorado. The paint is remixed into recycled paint, used as fuel, made into other products or properly disposed. For drop-off sites go to [www.paintcare.org](http://www.paintcare.org) or call 855-724-6809.

**Did you know** that between 20 and 40 million mattresses end up in the landfill each year? **Springback Colorado** picks up and recycles mattresses while employing disenfranchised workers: [www.springbackco.org](http://www.springbackco.org) (720-515-1328).

**ReStore Habitat for Humanity** accepts building materials such as doors, insulation, flooring, lumber, & cabinets and picks up in the Denver area: [www.habitatmetrodenver.org/restore/](http://www.habitatmetrodenver.org/restore/) (70 Rio Grande Blvd. 303-421-5300).

**RAFT Colorado** is a nonprofit that accepts a variety of items to be used by local school teachers in the classroom. They accept manufacturing and packaging materials, bottle caps, corks and miscellaneous other items. See website and contact them to see if your materials are appropriate: [www.raftcolorado.org](http://www.raftcolorado.org) (3827 Steele St., Unit C, 720-242-8833).

**Terracycle** is an innovative recycling company that recycles the most difficult items including candy wrappers and drink pouches. You pay a fee to have a box for specific items sent to your house. The fee includes the cost of mailing the box back to Terracycle once you have filled it. We encourage you to share the box and cost with neighbors! If you are a business or community group, they do have some free programs sponsored by brand names that need public drop-off sites. See their website for details: [www.terracycle.com](http://www.terracycle.com).

**The following list includes items that the City of Denver DOES NOT accept in the purple recycling bin, but there are recycling solutions! Consider re-using an item or giving it to a friend or family member or donating to a local nonprofit. If those options don't work, here is a list of places that accept specific items:**

| Item                                         | Solution 1                                                                 | Solution 2                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Plastic Grocery Bags & Bubble Wrap           | Supermarkets/Sprouts/King Soopers/Safeway/Target - Bins at entrance        | Take bubble wrap to a packing store for reuse                                           |
| Scrap Metal                                  | SustainAbility Denver                                                      | See DenverGov.org/Recycling for a list of for-profit metal recyclers                    |
| Clothing                                     | arc Thrift Stores                                                          | Other local nonprofits                                                                  |
| Tennis Shoes                                 | Nike Outlets (recycle)                                                     | Thriftstore (if reusable)                                                               |
| Electronics & wires/cords                    | Blue Star Recycling                                                        | SustainAbility Denver                                                                   |
| Paint                                        | Paintcare                                                                  | SustainAbility Denver                                                                   |
| Car Tires                                    | Tires shops                                                                | Colorado Tire Recycling                                                                 |
| Batteries- Alkaline & Rechargeable           | Call2Recycle (Home Depot/Ace Hardware Drop-off)                            | Blue Star or SustainAbility Denver                                                      |
| Cell Phones                                  | Donate to Cell Phones for Soldiers; Verizon's Hopeline or other nonprofits | Blue Star or Sustainability                                                             |
| CFL light bulbs                              | Ace Hardware/Blue Star Recycling                                           | Denver Hazardous Waste (There is a fee)                                                 |
| Holiday Lights                               | City of Denver                                                             |                                                                                         |
| Bicycle Parts                                | SustainAbility Denver                                                      |                                                                                         |
| Styrofoam                                    | SustainAbility Denver                                                      |                                                                                         |
| Appliances                                   | SustainAbility Denver                                                      |                                                                                         |
| Text Books                                   | SustainAbility Denver                                                      |                                                                                         |
| CDs/DVDs                                     | SustainAbility Denver                                                      |                                                                                         |
| Refrigerators, Freezers, Air Conditioners    | Front Range Recycling Services (720-588-0268)                              | Restore-Habitat for Humanity (303-421-1908) or Denver Appliance Collection 720-799-5140 |
| Mattresses/box springs                       | Spring Back Colorado                                                       |                                                                                         |
| Motor Oil                                    | Auto repair & parts shops                                                  |                                                                                         |
| Natural Wine Cork                            | Local wine stores                                                          | Compost-No plastic corks                                                                |
| Carpet & Carpet Pad                          | iCarpets, INC. (720-252-7731)                                              |                                                                                         |
| Furniture, Appliances, Housing Materials     | Restore-Habitat for Humanity (303-421-1908)                                |                                                                                         |
| Razors                                       | Terracycle                                                                 |                                                                                         |
| Snack bags/Wrappers for candy & protein bars | Terracycle                                                                 |                                                                                         |
| Toothpaste Containers                        | Terracycle                                                                 |                                                                                         |
| Coffee Bags                                  | Terracycle                                                                 |                                                                                         |