



City of Oak Forest Guide to Proper Disposal and Recycling

Residents in the Chicago southland throw out an average of 4.4 pounds of garbage per day, which adds up to **900 million** pounds per year for our region. Some of this mountain of trash can be recycled or remanufactured for future use, and household items that contain toxic materials must not be land filled but must be disposed of carefully to prevent contamination to the environment.

This guide provides disposal information for many household items. However, the information provided is not exhaustive. Please call the Public Works Department at (708) 535-4090 if you have information about a business in our area that will accept items that are currently listed in the guide "to be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day."

Please follow these few "rules of thumb" when recycling with our community based partners:

- ✓ Do not drop off materials to be recycled when the business is closed - visit our partners during business hours.
- ✓ Only bring those items the business has indicated they are willing to accept.
- ✓ Some items in our guide require some additional care with handling
 - Automotive fluids (motor oil, transmission fluid, anti-freeze, etc.) - Place in a sealed container (laundry soap bottle) and do not mix with other products (ie. anti-freeze in one bottle, motor oil in another).
 - Automotive fluids - our community based partners will only accept what you use at home...not large volumes from another business.
- ✓ Remember that our community based partners are participating on a voluntary basis as a means to help you...their neighbors.

If you have questions about recycling aluminum, paper or metal via the curbside recycling program, call Nuway Disposal at (708) 798-2212. Mention of companies or organizations in this directory does not constitute an endorsement of or recommendation for use by the City of Oak Forest - Public Works Department.

This guide is posted on the City's new website and updated on a period basis as information becomes available. Please visit the Public Works webpage for environmental issues:

<http://www.oak-forest.org/pubworks/EnvironmentalStewardship.asp>

The Illinois EPA's **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day** schedule is available at <http://www.epa.state.il.us> or by calling IEPA Waste Reduction Unit at (217) 785-8604.

If you need additional information, please call the **Oak Forest Public Works Department** at (708) 535-4090.

[Nuway Disposal's garbage and recycling pickup schedule \(click here\)](#)

[Nuway Disposal's holiday garbage & recycling pickup schedule \(click here\)](#)

<h2 style="color: green;">Curbside Recycling</h2>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recycling is available in your area (exceptions may apply). ➤ Recyclables will be collected on your regularly scheduled pick up day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Please have recyclables out by 6:30 am. ➤ Please call for more details.
What Can be Recycled	What can NOT be recycled
Newspaper- Newspaper and newspaper inserts.	Please no soiled paper.
Cardboard-Empty and flatten boxes.	Please no food contamination, wax coated boxes or packing material.
Other fibers- Magazines, catalogs, computer paper, phone books, chipboard, and junk mail.	Please no waxed or foil coatings. No hard cover books.
Glass Bottles and Jars- Deposit both clear and colored glass into recycle bin. Labels can be left on, but please rinse out and remove lids.	Please no flat glass, light bulbs, mirrors, ceramics, Pyrex, drinking glasses, broken glass or unwashed bottles.
Plastic Bottles- Only plastic bottles that have a #1 or #2 on the bottom can be recycled at this time. Rinse out to avoid an odor problem. Labels can be left on.	Please no containers not marked #1 or #2. No plastic bags, and no oil containers.
Tin and Aluminum Cans- Please rinse out to avoid an odor problem. Labels can be left on.	Please no aerosol cans, paint cans, or unwashed cans. No clothes hangers.

AEROSOL CANS

Aerosol cans are generally made from steel, which is a widely recycled material. The U.S. EPA suggests that all aerosol cans, once emptied, should be recycled. Residents can also bring aerosol cans to the next scheduled [Household Hazardous Waste \(HHW\) Collection Day](#). The cans will be emptied of their contents and the cans will be recycled. For more information, contact the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency web site, <http://www.epa.state.il.us>, or by calling IEPA Waste Reduction Unit at (217) 785-8604.

APPLIANCES

Major appliances (sometimes called "white goods") include air conditioners, clothes washers and dryers, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, freezers, ranges and water heaters. Nuway Disposal will take one large household appliance per week. They must be at the curb on your regular day. According to state law, *the homeowner must remove the doors of a refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, & dryers **BEFORE** placing at the curb.*

AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS

Automotive products such as antifreeze, brake fluid, and transmission fluid contain many toxic materials and should not end up in the trash or sewers. Please bring used automotive products to the vendors listed below or a spring or fall **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day**. The Illinois EPA's schedule is available at <http://www.epa.state.il.us> or by calling IEPA Waste Reduction Unit at (217) 785-8604.

Express Care (Valvoline)

6230 W 159TH
Oak Forest, IL 60452
Phone: 708-687-1132
Materials Collected: Used Motor Oil, Transmission fluid, Anti-freeze

Milex

6240 West 159th Street
Oak Forest, IL 60452
Phone: (708) 687-6121
Materials Collected: Used Motor Oil, Transmission fluid, Anti-freeze

Fair Undercar Care Inc.

15436 S. Cicero Avenue
Oak Forest, IL 60452
(708) 535-2011
Materials Collected: Used Motor Oil, scrap metal - must fit inside their scrap bin.

Multistate Transmission

5113 W. 159th Street
Oak Forest, IL 60452
(708) 687-1500
Materials Collected: Used Motor Oil, Transmission fluid

Jiffy Lube® Service Center #250

5401 159TH ST
Oak Forest, IL 60452
(708) 535-2011
Materials Collected: Used Motor Oil and oil filters.

R S Automotive

5135 159th St, Oak Forest, IL
(708) 687-1100
Used Motor Oil, oil filters, Transmission fluid, and Anti-freeze

Merlin's 200,000 Mile Shop

6012 W. 159th Street
Oak Forest, IL 60452
(708) 687-6404
Materials Collected: Scrap metal less than 50 lbs.

BATTERIES

Car (lead-acid) batteries: It has been illegal to dispose of car batteries in Illinois landfills since 1990, but lead-acid batteries are easily recycled or refurbished. When purchasing a new car battery, ask for a credit for your old one. [Interstate Battery](#) (16220 S. Pulaski) returns spent (worn-out) lead-acid batteries (such as automotive, marine/RV and motorcycle types) to be recycled in order to make new batteries and other products. Questions? Contact Interstate Battery at (708) 333-2580.

Household Batteries (dry cell): Common household (Alkaline and carbon-zinc) or dry cell batteries contain heavy metals such as mercury, cadmium, and lead, and should never be land filled or incinerated. Heavy metals have the potential to contaminate soil, water and air, which can seriously affect human health and the environment. Save your household batteries and bring them to the next **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day**. The Illinois EPA's schedule is available at <http://www.epa.state.il.us> or by calling IEPA Waste Reduction Unit at (217) 785-8604.

Rechargeable Batteries:

The City of Oak Forest has joined a national program called *Call2Recycle!*[™] that allows Oak Forest residents to conveniently recycle their cell phones and portable rechargeable batteries. Residents can bring rechargeable batteries and old cell phones to the [City Clerk's Office at City Hall](#), 15440 S. Central Avenue, to be recycled at no cost! When the battery can no longer hold a charge, it can and should be recycled. **If it's rechargeable, it's recyclable!**

The following rechargeable battery chemistries can be recycled - Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion), and Small Sealed Lead* (Pb). Rechargeable batteries are commonly found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, digital cameras, two-way radios, camcorders, remote control toys, and a variety of other portable electronic products. *The RBRC program does not accept alkaline, non-rechargeable batteries, or any battery heavier than two pounds.*

[Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation](#) (RBRC) is a non-profit, public service organization created by the rechargeable power industry and tasked with recycling of rechargeable batteries and cell phones.

BULK ITEMS

Large items such as couches, chairs, mattresses, dressers, TVs and exercise equipment can be taken out with your household trash on a regularly scheduled trash day. Please use these guidelines with the following bulk items:

Major appliances/white goods: include air conditioners, clothes washers and dryers, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, freezers, ranges and water heaters. Nuway Disposal will take one large household appliance per week. They must be at the curb on your regular day. According to state law, the ***homeowner must remove the doors of refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, and dryers BEFORE they are placed at the curb.***

Carpeting: Nuway Disposal will take up to four rolls per week of carpeting free of charge. Carpeting needs to be cut into lengths no longer than three feet, rolled up and tied in bundles that one person can pick up.

Construction Debris: Nuway Disposal will take two cans of construction debris per week as long as they weigh no more than 50 pounds each.

Pool liners: Pool liners must be cut and rolled, each weighing no more than 50 pounds.

Temporary cleanup dumpsters: A very popular option when cleaning out a basement/garage or doing a small remodeling job. A permit is required by the City when using a temporary dumpster. The application for a permit is available at the Clerk's Office at no charge. Yard waste, garbage and debris may not be intermingled with construction material. Nuway Disposal has 6, 10, 15, 20, and 30 cubic yard dumpsters. Contact Nuway's dispatch office at (708) 798-2212 if you have any questions or would like to order a dumpster.

Remember...a City of Oak Forest permit is required for temporary dumpsters!

COMPUTERS and OTHER ELECTRONICS

Since computers and other electronic equipment contain hazardous materials such as mercury, cadmium, lead and brominated flame-retardants, they should never be disposed of in landfills.

To dispose of computers in working condition, contact Give A Computer, Inc., a minority-owned and operated 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation whose mission is to provide a computer to individuals and families in need. The organization specializes in refurbishing old computers to provide equipment for senior citizens, for parents who cannot afford equipment, for physically and mentally challenged individuals, and for teenage parents. Give A Computer, Inc. does not accept any dot matrix printers or discolored yellow monitors and printers. They ask that donors make a \$10 minimum monetary tax-deductible donation to help offset the cost of refurbishing. For more information about its programs, how to donate, and drop off locations in Olympia Fields and Orland Park, go to www.giveacomputer.org or call 708-748-7091.

Also, computers or other technology items that still work can be donated to the Salvation Army. Locations and information about pick-ups: Call 1-800-348-8700.

To dispose of equipment that is no longer useful, Oak Forest residents and businesses can contact [Intercon Solutions](#) (Chicago Heights) so that valuable metals and plastics contained in computers and telecommunication equipment can be recovered. Intercon has "a zero landfill tolerance policy" and certifies that all materials will be recycled. **In addition, Intercon's process includes melting computer hard drives for security protection.** Residents can call (888) 452-5642 to schedule a drop off .

Intercon accepts and recycles computer systems, fax machines, copiers, scanners, telephones, cellular phones, PDAs, televisions, cables and all other home or office electronics. **The program is fee-based to cover the cost of complete de-manufacturing and domestic recycling. Fees are nominal, and examples range as follows:**

- \$1.00 for keyboards, calculators, cell phones & portable CD, tape, MP3 players;
- \$5.00 for computer towers, desk top printers, video game systems, VCRs, DVD players, telephones & small micro-waves;
- \$10.00 for monitors, terminals, large microwaves & 27" TVs;
- \$20.00 for 28" - 36" TVs;
- \$35.00 for 37" - 50" TVs.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Reliable Fire Extinguishers & Equipment will accept and properly dispose of old fire extinguishers. The first two are FREE. After the first two, the rest are \$4.00 each:

Reliable Fire Extinguishers & Equipment

12845 S. Cicero Ave.

Alsip, IL (708) 597-4600

FLUORESCENT BULBS

Fluorescent bulbs should never be disposed of in landfills. When shattered, fluorescent bulbs release mercury and other metals that are very hazardous to humans and to the environment. **Residents may bring their used bulbs to a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day sponsored by the Illinois EPA each spring or fall.** The Illinois EPA's schedule is available at <http://www.epa.state.il.us> or by calling IEPA Waste Reduction Unit at (217) 785-8604.

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHTBULBS (CFL's)

CFL bulbs should never be disposed of in landfills. When shattered, CFL bulbs release mercury and other metals that are very hazardous to humans and to the environment. **Residents may bring their used CFL lightbulbs to any Home Depot store - go to the Returns Desk, local Ace Hardware store (Ace will also accept broken CFLs, but they must be sealed in a zip-lock bag), or IKEA stores.**

HEATING OIL

Residential heating oil should be drained from tanks into sturdy containers, and delivered to a **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day** for proper disposal. For commercial quantities, businesses can contact Heritage Environmental Services, 15330 Canal Bank Road, Lemont, IL. The phone number is (630) 739-1151.

PACKING MATERIAL

Bubble wrap, styrofoam, packing "peanuts" and old boxes can all be reused by shipping businesses. Bring the material to any **UPS Store** (formerly Mail Boxes, Etc.) For more recycling options - www.polystyrene.org

UPS Store

15941 Harlem Ave
Tinley Park, IL 60477
(708) 429-7060

PAINT

To dispose of **latex** (water-based) paint, mix it with an absorbent material such as kitty litter, allow the can to dry, and then put it in the garbage with your other household trash. Check the label to see if you clean the brushes with soap and water. If yes, then its latex paint and can be disposed of in this manner.

To dispose of **oil-based** paint (clean brushes with paint thinner or mineral spirits), store it until the next **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day** sponsored by the Illinois EPA. Information is available <http://www.epa.state.il.us> or by calling IEPA Waste Reduction Unit at (217) 785-8604.

PROPANE TANKS

Propane is a highly flammable gas that is used in tanks for gas grills and bottles for camp stoves and lanterns. These tanks and bottles require special handling and should never be thrown out with regular household trash. They are pressurized, and may explode or ignite when crushed inside garbage trucks, threatening the safety of the haulers and damaging their equipment.

Residents can drop off used (empty) propane tanks at the next **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day** sponsored by the Illinois EPA. Information is available <http://www.epa.state.il.us> or by calling IEPA Waste Reduction Unit at (217) 785-8604.

RAILROAD TIES

Residents can bring railroad ties to [Homewood Disposal, Inc.](#), 17415 S. Ashland Avenue, East Hazel Crest, Illinois, 708-798-1004. Please call first to verify the yard is open.

SMOKE DETECTORS

There are two basic types of smoke detectors, photoelectric and ionizing, and proper disposal of non-functioning smoke detectors depends on the type. *Photoelectric detectors do not contain hazardous material* and may be disposed of in the trash - after the battery is removed. *Ionizing smoke detectors contain small amounts of a radio active material called Americium-241.* (Am-241 has a half-life of 458 years.)

To dispose of an *Ionizing smoke detector*, store it until the next **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Day** sponsored by the Illinois EPA. Information is available <http://www.epa.state.il.us> or by calling IEPA Waste Reduction Unit at (217) 785-8604.

SYRINGES (SHARPS)

To protect waste haulers who can contract AIDS or other serious infections from a puncture, properly dispose of medical needles, or "sharps", by placing them in a rigid container, such as an empty milk or detergent bottle. Secure the lid with tape, and throw out the container with other household trash.

THERMOSTATS & THERMOMETERS

Most household thermostats and thermometers contain mercury. To ensure proper disposal, old thermostats and thermometers should be stored until the next Household Hazardous Waste collection event ([IEPA HHW Collection Schedule](#)).

TIRES

Almost 300 million used tires are generated each year in the U.S. Stockpiles of old tires present a serious solid waste disposal problem because they are a potential fire hazard, can contaminate ground water, and can breed mosquitoes. Scrap tires should be collected to be retreaded, burned for energy, or converted into molded rubber products, rubberized asphalt paving, and athletic surfaces. The following local business will accept used tires, wheels/rims, or lead for recycling:

Discount Tire

5434 159th Street
Oak Forest, IL 60452
(708) 687-7506

Materials Collected: Used Tires \$2, used rims/wheels \$1, and lead (metal recycling).