

# 2010 Jackson County Green Guide

## A Directory of Solid Waste & Recycling Regulations and Services

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## **HAULERS**

All haulers which collect trash and/or recyclables within Jackson County are required to be licensed by Jackson County Health Department. Some municipalities have contracts with individual haulers to collect waste within their boundaries, while others leave it up to residents to find a hauler. To find out if your community contracts with a single hauler, please contact your city or village hall. If you live in an unincorporated area, it is your responsibility to procure the services of a waste hauler.

The City of Carbondale provides municipal collection of waste and recyclables to its single-family residences. If you live within the City of Carbondale, please contact the Department of Street Maintenance & Environmental Services at 457-3275 for information on trash and recycling service.

If it is your responsibility to arrange for waste pickup, please contact Jackson County Health Dept. for a list of County-licensed haulers that operate in your area.

Pertinent questions you may want to ask of each hauler include:

- Do you provide service in my area?
- How much do your trash and recycling services cost?
- How are my trash and recycling costs billed to me?
- How often do you pick up trash and recyclables?
- What day(s) of the week do you collect in my area?
- Do you provide containers for trash and recyclables?
- Do you have a limit on the amount of waste residents can set out for collection?
- Do you collect landscape waste, white goods, and oversized items and, if so, how do I arrange pick up?
- Do you provide literature on how to properly prepare my recyclables for collection?

## **SOLID WASTE REGULATIONS**

Several County regulations affect the ways in which you can manage your residential waste. Jackson County adopted a waste management ordinance effective July 1, 1997 which requires everyone to separate recyclable materials from their trash for the purpose of recycling. Currently, haulers are required to provide curbside recycling services to single-family residents within municipalities. Some haulers provide curbside recycling to residents of unincorporated areas on a voluntary basis. Recycling centers and drop-off stations are available for residents to take their recyclables to if curbside service is not available to them.

Where curbside recycling is offered, haulers are required to collect, at a minimum, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and jars, and #1 & #2 plastic bottles. Individual haulers may collect additional materials. Haulers have the right to refuse collection of recyclables which are prepared incorrectly or contain garbage. It is illegal for anyone other than your hauler to take the recyclables you set

out at the curb.

Many State regulations also impact your waste disposal practices. The following items are banned from disposal in Illinois landfills:

- landscape waste, including grass, leaves, shrubbery cuttings, tree trimmings under 12" diameter and other related materials
- used oil, not including filters, absorbents, rags and empty containers
- lead-acid batteries
- tires
- white goods (large appliances), including refrigerators, ranges, water heaters, freezers, air conditioners, humidifiers and similar appliances that have not had the hazardous components removed.

## **WASTE BURNING RESTRICTIONS**

Garbage collection services are offered throughout Jackson County. Some people, however, continue to dispose of household waste by burning. Burning garbage can release particulate matter, a pollutant associated with respiratory irritation and diseases, into the air. Illinois law prohibits the burning of most matter without an Illinois EPA permit. However, the following wastes may only be burned if certain conditions are met.

*Paper & Cardboard:* (generated in a single family home) may only be burned if all of the following conditions are present:

- It is burned on the site where generated
- It is burned when atmospheric conditions will readily dissipate contaminants
- Burning does not create a visibility hazard
- It is not burned within any municipality, plus a zone extending one mile beyond the city limits of any municipality with a population of 1,000 or more
- Other domicile waste, such as food packaging, food waste, plastic containers, or diapers may not be burned.

*Agricultural Waste:* (discarded matter, except garbage and dead animals, generated on a farm or ranch by crop and livestock production practices and including bags, cartons, dry bedding, crop residues, and structural materials - but not entire structures and not asbestos-containing materials) may only be burned if all of the following conditions are present:

- It is burned on the site where generated
- It is burned when atmospheric conditions will readily dissipate contaminants
- Burning does not create a visibility hazard
- It is not burned within any municipality, plus a zone extending one mile beyond the city limits of any municipality with a population of 1,000 or more
- Burning occurs more than 1,000 feet from residential or other populated areas

- Burning can be demonstrated as the only economically feasible method of disposal

*Landscape Waste:* (discarded vegetable or plant matter, except garbage and agricultural waste, including trees, tree trimmings, branches, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and yard trimmings) may only be burned if all of the following conditions are present:

- It is burned on the site where generated
- It is burned when atmospheric conditions will readily dissipate contaminants
- Burning does not create a visibility hazard
- It is not burned in a municipality that has enacted ordinances which restrict or ban landscape waste burning

Some Jackson County municipalities have ordinances which prohibit the burning of landscape waste or the times during which it can be burned. Contact your municipal government for community-specific restrictions.

It is also illegal for any business to burn waste materials without an IEPA permit. Building contractors, landscapers and other businesses that generate wood and other easily combustible materials are often found violating this law. Make sure any business you hire to work for you disposes of waste materials properly.

For general information on burning or to report illegal burning, call the Jackson County Solid Waste Program at 684-3143, ext. 128.

## **ILLEGAL DUMPING LAWS**

Sometimes people attempt to dispose of waste through illegal dumping to avoid paying for disposal. Household garbage, landscape waste, tires, and construction & demolition debris are often found illegally dumped. However, illegal dumping of waste can be quite costly to those who are caught breaking the law.

Under the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, you can be charged with a Class A misdemeanor for causing or allowing the open dumping of any waste, regardless of the amount. The minimum fine for illegal dumping is \$1,500 a day for each offense. Also, persons who, without a permit, knowingly operate a waste treatment, storage, or disposal facility exceeding 250 cubic feet (approx. 9 cubic yards) can be charged with a Class 4 felony and fined up to \$25,000 a day upon conviction.

Please be advised that it is illegal to dump or bury waste on your property or anyone else's without a permit. It is also illegal to knowingly allow others to dispose of waste on your property. Report any illegal dumping of waste to the Jackson County Solid Waste Program (684-3143, ext. 128) or the Illinois Attorney General's 24-hour hotline (1-888-ATTY-GEN).

Burning or dumping of waste may also violate the Jackson County Refuse Storage, Handling and Nuisance Abatement Ordinance. Burning or dumping can be held in violation of the ordinance if they create a nuisance

or public health hazard, regardless of location. It is always best to be considerate of your neighbors when managing your waste materials.

## **CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS**

It is illegal to dump construction and demolition (C&D) debris, even if it is 'clean' debris. Clean C&D debris consists of uncontaminated concrete without protruding metal bars, bricks, rock, stone, asphalt pavement, or dirt and sand generated from construction and demolition activities.

Clean C&D debris may be recycled, landfilled, or buried below grade outside of groundwater well setback zones. Illinois EPA may require a permit to bury clean C&D debris in a current or former quarry, mine or other excavation. If buried in an approved location, the clean debris must be covered with sufficient uncontaminated soil to support vegetation within 30 days. Broken concrete without protruding metal bars may be used for erosion control. Other C&D debris, such as wood, roofing shingles and drywall may be recycled or landfilled. However, few recycling opportunities for these materials exist in the Jackson County area.

Special requirements may be necessary when handling and disposing of asbestos-containing materials and debris contaminated with lead paint. In addition, demolition of commercial buildings generally requires an asbestos inspection and filing a 10-Day Notification with Illinois EPA. Please call the Jackson County Solid Waste Program at 684-3143, ext. 128 with questions about construction and demolition debris disposal.

When hiring a contractor for a construction or demolition job, make sure the costs for proper handling and disposal of the waste materials are included. You may also require your contractor to provide landfill receipts to ensure that your C&D debris is managed properly.

## **LANDFILLS**

Jackson County is home to one permitted solid waste disposal facility. Southern Illinois Regional Landfill is operated by Continental Waste Industries of Illinois, a subsidiary of Republic Services, Inc., which is the second-largest solid waste management firm in the U.S. The landfill is located at 1540 Landfill Road, north of DeSoto. Hosting a landfill provides the County with funds to operate Solid Waste and Recycling Programs and provides residents and businesses with relatively inexpensive waste disposal. For questions regarding wastes accepted and disposal costs, call Southern Illinois Regional Landfill at 867-2909.

## **SOLID WASTE ENFORCEMENT**

In 1989, Jackson County Health Department was delegated the authority to conduct solid waste enforcement activities within Jackson County by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. This authority includes the responsibility of inspecting the landfill and investigating waste dumping and burning violations and enforcing applicable regulations. Delegation authority gives the residents of Jackson County a much faster response to complaints and potential problems. Please call 684-3143, ext. 128 with questions regarding enforcement activities.

## **JACKSON COUNTY RECYCLING PROGRAM**

In response to State legislation which required counties to develop plans for managing the solid waste generated within their boundaries, Jackson County adopted a solid waste management plan in August 1996. In 1997, Jackson County adopted a waste management ordinance and hired a full-time recycling coordinator to oversee implementation of the solid waste plan. Approximately 28% of the solid waste produced in Jackson County was recycled in 2008.

One of the main responsibilities of the Jackson County Recycling Program is to educate residents about recycling and proper solid waste disposal. This education is carried out in several ways, including: literature, such as brochures, fact sheets, and this directory; presentations to schools, community groups, government officials, and other organizations; media outreach, such as newspaper advertisements and news releases; and informational booths at special events.

Beyond education, other activities of the Jackson County Recycling Program include: working with waste haulers and recycling centers to improve recycling efforts; administering the waste hauler licensing program; developing and implementing special recycling projects; providing waste reduction assistance to businesses and institutions; and conducting recycling collections and events.

For more information, call 684-3143, ext. 128.

## **RECYCLING CENTERS**

People without curbside recycling service, such as multi-family residents, residents of unincorporated areas and small businesses, have three recycling centers in Jackson County which they can utilize. These facilities are located at:

Southern Recycling Center  
300 W. Chestnut Street, Carbondale  
549-2880

*Accepts:* All paper (including office paper, magazines, phone books, textbooks, junk mail, shredded paper, paperboard and cardboard), plastic bottles #1 & #2, glass bottles & jars, aluminum cans, clean aluminum foil & pie pans, steel cans, electronics, compact discs, plastic grocery bags, certain size pallets, scrap metals, motor oil, plate glass, lead-acid batteries, stretch film & bubble wrap.

Cimco Recycling (formerly Karco)  
2622 New Era Road, Carbondale  
457-6319

*Accepts:* Aluminum cans & foil, steel cans, scrap metals (including aluminum, iron, stainless steel, brass, and copper), and lead-acid batteries.

STM Metal Market  
Route 51, Dowell  
568-1557

*Accepts:* Primarily scrap metals (including aluminum, iron, stainless steel, brass, and copper) and lead-acid batteries.

The materials accepted by each of these recycling centers may change without notice. Please call ahead to make sure they will accept your recyclables. These facilities may also pay for certain materials; call ahead to find out current market prices.

## **JACKSON COUNTY DROP-OFFS**

Jackson County Recycling Program operates four recycling drop-off sites for residents. These drop-offs are located at Jackson County Health Department (halfway between Carbondale & Murphysboro off Route 13), University of Illinois Extension (402 Ava Road, Murphysboro; 1 mile west of Route 13/127), Rock Crusher Road in Campbell Hill (2 blocks south of Route 4) and at the corner of Main Street and Keller Highway in Ava. These locations are available 24-hours-a-day and accept mixed paper in one compartment and commingled cans and bottles in the other compartment. For more information on these locations, call 684-3143, ext. 128.

## **CITY OF CARBONDALE DROP-OFFS**

The City of Carbondale operates two recycling drop-off locations for residents. These drop-offs are located at the University Baptist Church parking lot, 700 S. Oakland Street, and on E. College Street, in the parking lot across from the police station. These locations are available 24 hours-a-day for you to drop-off your newspaper, aluminum and steel cans, and glass bottles and jars for recycling. Call 457-3275 for more information on these drop-off locations.

## SIU RECYCLING DROP-OFFS

Southern Illinois University-Carbondale provides a recycling drop-off on campus for SIU faculty, staff and students. This drop-off is located southwest of McAndrew Stadium on Physical Plant Drive, near Travel Service. Call 453-8131 for more information on the SIU recycling program.

## PREPARING YOUR MATERIALS

It is important for everyone to know how to properly prepare their recyclables for collection. In order for the recycling process to work properly, you must do your part to provide your recyclables in the form needed by the hauler or recycling center. Removing non-recyclable materials from your recyclables at home reduces the expense of having to remove the contaminants at a processing facility, lowering the costs of the recycling process.

This section provides general guidelines for your household to follow when preparing your materials for recycling. Haulers and recycling centers may have additional rules. ALWAYS follow the rules provided by your hauler or recycling center on how to prepare materials for recycling. The materials discussed here are the ones most commonly collected for recycling. Recycling opportunities may be available for other materials as well.

Most haulers and recycling centers in Jackson County are independently operated, so differences between the various materials accepted, hours and days of operation and the manner in which the recycler prefers the materials to be prepared should be expected. Get to know your recycling center and/or curbside recycling program and watch for changes in their operations.

### General Rules About Materials Preparation at Home

1. **Separate Your Recyclables.** Separate acceptable recyclables from your trash.
2. **Keep Your Recyclables Clean.** Your recyclables don't have to be spotless, but all food and drink containers should be rinsed out. Clean materials do not smell or attract pests!
3. **Densify Your Recyclables.** Step on your plastic bottles and aluminum cans to reduce space. The more materials the hauler can fit on the truck, the lower their transportation costs.
4. **Buy Products in Recyclable Packaging.** If you recycle, buy products in recyclable packaging. If you do not recycle, buy products with the least amount of packaging.

**PAPER** - All curbside programs in Jackson County collect newspaper and cardboard. Some haulers also collect other mixed papers. Some recycling centers and drop-off sites also collect various types of papers. Never include waxed boxes or paper plates, cups, tissues, or paper towels in with your recyclables.

## **Newspapers**

Generally speaking, if it came in the newspaper, it can be recycled with the newspaper. Glossy inserts are acceptable, but remove any rubber bands or plastic sleeves. One way to bundle your newspaper for curbside collection is to bag it tightly in brown paper grocery bags. Bagging the newspaper will keep it from being scattered by the wind and relatively dry and make the newspaper easier to handle by your recycler.

## **Telephone Directories**

Recycle the whole phone book, but remove any non-paper items attached to the outside, like magnets.

## **Paperboard**

Also called chipboard, this material is used to make cereal and shoe boxes. Paperboard is most often gray or brown on its interior surface. Remove any non-paper materials and flatten boxes to save space. 'Wet strength' boxes are not collected through recycling programs in Jackson County. Wet strength boxes are any food packages that go into the freezer or refrigerator. These boxes usually have a glossy exterior and a white interior surface. Avoid wet strength packaging when shopping or throw it into the garbage.

## **Junk Mail**

You do not need to remove windows from envelopes. Please remove any non-paper items and throw them into the garbage.

## **Office Papers**

Please remove paper clips, rubber bands, and binders. You do not need to remove staples.

## **Magazines and Catalogs**

Please remove inserts like perfume samples and other non-paper items that are sometimes included inside magazines. Remove any plastic wrap.

## **Corrugated Cardboard**

Remove packing materials. Break down boxes and cut them into manageable pieces if necessary.

**PLASTICS** - In order to make recycling easier, plastics manufacturers use a standardized coding system on the bottom or side of plastic containers to identify resin type. The code consists of a number surrounded by chasing arrows or a triangle that lets recyclers and the public know what kind of plastic was used to make the container. This code does not mean that the container is recyclable. The code only serves to identify the type of plastic resin used to manufacture the container. Presently, only bottles made from #1 (PET) and #2 (HDPE) are accepted locally.

Non-bottle containers, such as butter tubs and ice cream containers, are not collected locally for recycling, even if they are made from #1 or #2 plastics. Reuse them to store leftovers or nuts and bolts, or throw them

away. Always remove and throw away the lids from your plastic bottles. The plastics used to make lids and non-bottle containers have different properties than the plastic used to manufacture bottles, making them incompatible to recycle with #1 and #2 bottles.

Plastics should always be rinsed and crushed before you put them in your recycling bin or take them to the recycling center. Crushing helps to save space on the recycling truck or in the drop-off bin. An easy way to crush a plastic bottle is to rinse it out with a drop of dishwashing liquid and hot water. Shake the bottle well and then pour the soapy water down the drain. Then crush the bottle with your hands or step on it and it will stay crushed when it cools.

#1 & #2 plastic bottles are accepted in local curbside recycling programs. Some recycling centers and drop-off sites also accept these bottles.

### **#1 PET Bottles**

PET is used to make soft drink bottles and other products, such as juice and water bottles. PET is coded with a number 1 on the bottom or side of the bottle. PET bottles are most often clear or green in color.

### **#2 HDPE Bottles**

HDPE is used to make bottles for a wide variety of products including milk, juice, laundry detergent and water. HDPE bottles are coded with a number 2 on the bottom or side of the bottle. HDPE bottles are often a translucent white color if they hold milk or water, or come in a variety of colors if they hold detergent or juice. Bottles that have contained motor oil or antifreeze are not accepted in any local recycling programs.

**METALS** - All metals are potentially recyclable. Aluminum and steel cans are accepted in local curbside recycling programs and at recycling centers and drop-off sites. Other metal scrap is only accepted at recycling centers. Most haulers and recycling centers will not accept steel paint cans and aerosol cans for recycling.

### **Steel**

Steel cans should be rinsed reasonably clean of food residue. Although it is not necessary, you may remove labels and flatten the cans to save space. If you include the can lids, be sure to insert them into the can so that no sharp edges are exposed to your family or the recycler.

### **Aluminum**

Aluminum is one of the most valuable recyclables. It is a light metal that does not attract a magnet like ferrous metals. Place your aluminum cans in your curbside bin or take them to a recycling center to receive the current market price.

You may crush aluminum cans to save space. Clean aluminum foil and baking pans can be recycled through some haulers and recycling centers. Keep them free of food debris and crumple them tightly.

Window frames, lawn furniture, siding and gutters are often made from aluminum, and are accepted at most recycling centers. These businesses pay current market prices for all aluminum scrap and cans.

### **Scrap Iron, Steel, Copper and Other Metals**

Some recycling centers buy scrap metals from the public. Call ahead to find out what they accept and the current market price.

## **GLASS**

All colors of bottles and jars are accepted in curbside recycling programs in Jackson County, as well as at some recycling centers and drop-off sites. Light bulbs, dishware, ceramics, crystal and Pyrex should never be recycled with glass bottles and jars. Inclusion of these materials can ruin an entire load of glass bound for the manufacturing plant.

Paper labels can remain on the bottles and jars, but lids and other metal materials should be removed and recycled if they are made of steel. Please rinse out food residue before putting your bottles and jars into your recycling container. Also, do not crush or break your glass when recycling it. Broken glass is dangerous to both your family and the recycler, plus broken glass is more difficult for the recycler to separate by color.

## **CHECK OUT EARTH911.ORG**

For online information about where to recycle in Jackson County, visit [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org). Once there, just enter your zip code for the nearest location to recycle paper, cans, bottles, motor oil and other items.

## **BUYING RECYCLED PRODUCTS**

The three chasing arrows of the recycling symbol stand for the three steps in the recycling process:

- 1) Collection of recyclables
- 2) Manufacturing new products from recycled materials
- 3) Purchasing products made with recycled content.

However, many people often forget about the third step: Buying Recycled Products. Purchasing recycled products is important because it creates the demand for people to place their recyclables in the bin in the first place. Without the end use that recycled products create, there would not be any purpose to recycling at home and at work. Buying recycled products tells manufacturers that you support recycling and want to see them use more recycled materials in their products.

Recycled products have long had the stigma of being of poor quality and high price. However, these views have become outdated. Recycled products of equal cost and quality to virgin products can be found if you shop around.

There are dozens of categories of recycled content products. Make sure to read the label and look for the highest percentage of post-consumer recycled content you can find. The following products and packaging almost always contain recycled materials, even if they are not labeled as such.

- **Steel:** including food cans, cars, appliances, bicycles, furniture, and nails. If its made from steel, it contains recycled steel.
- **Aluminum:** including beverage cans, window and door frames, car parts and lawn chairs.
- **Glass:** bottles and jars.
- **Paperboard:** cereal boxes, shoe boxes, jigsaw puzzles, game boards, and molded pulp egg cartons.

## **JUNK MAIL REDUCTION**

The Direct Marketing Association (DMA) offers the Mail Preference Service (MPS), which allows you to opt-out of direct mail marketing from many national companies. Registering with MPS removes your name for five years from the list DMA provides quarterly to companies for direct marketing purposes. This act alone will reduce the amount of direct mail you receive by 50-75 percent. Sign up online at **[www.dmachoice.org](http://www.dmachoice.org)**. Alternately, you can download a form and register by mail.

Under a federal law which took effect in 1997, you can also have your name removed from mailing lists used for credit offers. The major national credit bureaus operate a 24-hour toll-free number and a web site:

**1-888-5-OPT-OUT**

**<https://www.optoutprescreen.com>**

## **PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS**

Many retail stores accept plastic grocery bags for recycling. Look for the designated bin at the front of each facility. Make sure to remove all paper receipts and staples from the bags before recycling.

## **BUSINESS RECYCLING**

The Jackson County Recycling Program offers technical assistance to businesses and institutions on waste disposal and recycling. The following assistance is available free of charge to all commercial establishments located in Jackson County:

- Consultation and review of operations
- Waste audits
- Waste prevention and recycling program design
- Selecting a hauler
- Program implementation
- Employee education
- Evaluation and assessment

If your organization would like assistance in any of these areas, please call the Jackson County Recycling Program at 684-3143, ext. 128.

## **HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS**

Many items which contain hazardous or toxic chemicals should not be thrown in the garbage or dumped down the drain. Jackson County has conducted several household hazardous chemical collection events to properly dispose or recycle these items. Materials collected include paint, solvents, motor oil, batteries, pesticides, cleaners, poisons, and aerosols. In 2010, we anticipate holding one collection event, probably in the spring.

If you have questions about these collection events, or want to know about alternatives to using hazardous household products, contact the Jackson County Recycling Program at 684-3143, ext. 128.

## **PAINT**

If you have unwanted paint, check with your friends and neighbors to see if they can use it. If you are unable to find someone who can use your paint, small amounts of paint may be thrown away with household garbage if you allow the paint to solidify. Remove the lid from the can and let the paint dry. Mixing the paint with an absorbent, such as kitty litter, saw dust or shredded paper, will help soak up the paint and speed up drying time. Once the paint has hardened throw it away. Leave the lid off the can to show your hauler the paint has been solidified.

Make sure to always dry your paint in a well ventilated area, away from children, pets, and any ignition sources. Solvent based paints will dry more slowly than latex paints.

Most importantly, you should try to estimate the amount of a product you will need before purchasing. This practice will save you the expense of buying the product and the time needed to properly handle the unwanted portion. Also follow these three tips to make the paint you buy last longer: 1) cover the can

opening in plastic wrap; 2) make sure the lid fits securely; and 3) store the can upside down. The paint creates a tight seal around the lid, keeping the paint fresh!

## **FLUORESCENT LAMPS**

If you are a business or non-residential facility, you are prohibited from disposing of fluorescent and high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps in landfills (unless they are “low-mercury” bulbs). Residences are exempt from this regulation. Businesses and institutions should contact the Jackson County Recycling Program (684-3143, ext. 128) for more information regarding lamp disposal regulations or a list of lamp recycling companies.

Under a grant from the Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Ameren is providing free collection and recycling of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). Jackson County Health Dept. is a participating collection site. Disposal of CFLs is a concern due to the presence of a small amount of mercury in each lamp. Residents can drop-off CFLs inside the Health Department’s back building during normal business hours. No fluorescent tubes or incandescent bulbs are accepted. Residentially-generated CFLs only; no CFLs are accepted from businesses or institutions. Also, please remember that no lamps or bulbs should ever be placed into curbside or drop-off recycling containers.

## **RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES**

A nationwide system to recycle rechargeable batteries has been established by the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation. These batteries are most commonly used in cellular and cordless telephones, camcorders, cordless power tools, two-way radios, and laptop computers. They include Nickel-Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH), Lithium Ion (Li-Ion) and small sealed Lead (Pb) batteries (under 2 lbs). Once your batteries will no longer take a charge, you may recycle them at many area locations, including inside Jackson County Health Department’s back building. Other locations can be found online at [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org).

## **ALKALINE BATTERIES**

No recycling programs exist locally. Alkaline and carbon/zinc batteries (household batteries) no longer contain mercury and can be disposed of with your household garbage.

## **BUTTON-TYPE BATTERIES**

Silver and mercury button-type batteries commonly used in hearing aids, watches, and calculators should not be placed in the garbage. These batteries are often accepted at local jewelers and electronic retailers for recycling.

## **LEAD-ACID BATTERIES**

Lead-acid batteries from automobiles, motorcycles and marine vehicles are accepted by most retail outlets that sell new batteries. Please recycle your old battery when you purchase a new one. If you do not, the store may assess you a core charge for not having a trade-in battery.

## **TIRES**

Tires are banned from disposal in Illinois landfills and State regulations prohibit open dumping. Illinois retailers of tires are required to take an equal amount of old tires from customers who purchase new ones. However, people who have not taken advantage of this fact often find themselves with a few tires piled up in their garage or backyard.

Many area tire retailers will take small amounts of used passenger car and light truck tires from the public for a small fee. Some of these locations may also be able to remove a tire from the rim for an extra charge. Please call your tire dealer to find out if they will accept used tires for appropriate disposal/recycling.

## **MOTOR OIL**

Motor oil is banned from disposal in Illinois landfills and State regulations prohibit open dumping. Motor oil does not wear out; it merely gets dirty. These contaminants can be removed and the oil can be re-refined into new motor oil. Alternately, some facilities utilize special oil-burning furnaces to heat their facilities. Many area establishments accept small amounts of used motor oil from the public for recycling or energy recovery at no charge. Drain used oil into empty oil bottles, thoroughly rinsed milk jugs or purchase an oil recycling container at an automotive supply store. Make sure all containers have tightly sealed lids. **DO NOT** place used oil into containers that previously held bleach or other automotive fluids. Clearly mark 'used oil' on the container with magic marker. Call your auto shop or oil change location to see if they will accept motor oil for appropriate disposal/recycling. Many establishments also accept used oil filters for recycling.

## **ANTIFREEZE**

Antifreeze contains materials that can be harmful to humans and pets and should be disposed of properly. Many automotive shops and oil change facilities accept antifreeze from the public for recycling. Place antifreeze into a plastic container, such as an old antifreeze container or thoroughly rinsed milk jug, with a tight-fitting lid. DO NOT place used antifreeze into containers that previously held motor oil or other automotive fluids. Clearly mark 'used antifreeze' on the container with magic marker. Call your auto shop or oil change location to see if they will accept antifreeze for appropriate disposal/recycling.

## **COMPUTERS & OTHER ELECTRONICS**

Unwanted electronic equipment, such as computers and televisions, can be recycled through a program sponsored by Jackson County Health Dept. These items can be taken to Southern Recycling Center in Carbondale, which collects the equipment for shipment to an electronics recycling company. Collected equipment is either refurbished and resold or dismantled for resale of individual components. The remaining materials (plastics, glass, metals) are then sorted and recycled as scrap.

Electronics accepted include: computers and peripherals, monitors, printers, televisions, VCRs, stereos, video game players, cameras, telephones, pagers and more. Electronics not accepted include: Small household appliances such as microwaves, coffee makers, fans, vacuums, lamps, hair dryers, clothing irons, etc. Major appliances are also not accepted (see section on "White Goods - Large Appliances").

Used equipment is not available to the public through the County's program. This program is free of charge for residents who wish to recycle up to 10 items maximum. Participants who wish to recycle more than the limit should contact Jackson County Health Dept. at 684-3143, ext. 128 for more information.

## **WHITE GOODS - LARGE APPLIANCES**

Refrigerators and other appliances are not only bulky, but some contain CFC gases, PCB capacitors, and other components that are hazardous to the environment. The presence of these materials led to the banning of unprocessed white goods from Illinois landfills.

Mid America Service, 210 W. Willow, Carbondale (529-1411) may accept delivered white goods for recycling for a fee. Please call ahead to verify they can accept your appliances. Contact your waste hauler to see about a pick up if you are unable to deliver. If you have appliances that do not contain hazardous components, you may also contact area scrap metals recyclers regarding disposal.

## **MERCURY THERMOSTATS**

The Thermostat Recycling Corp. sponsors a nationwide take-back program for mercury thermostats. Many Jackson County heating and cooling contractors participate in this program. Call your contractor to see if they will accept your old mercury thermostat. If not, Jackson County Health Dept. may accept your old mercury thermostat for recycling. Please call 684-3143, ext. 128 before bringing your thermostat to the Health Dept.

## **IN-HOME INJECTION NEEDLES**

Injection needles generated in households are not regulated like those produced by health care facilities. However, precautions should be taken by generators of household needles (“sharps”) to prevent injury to those in your home and those who handle your trash.

Jackson County Health Dept. has sharps disposal containers available for purchase by clients who use hypodermic or intravenous needles at home. There are two sizes of containers available: small (3”x3”x8”) for \$5 & large (6”x9”x10”) for \$10. Clients can return full sharps containers to Jackson County Health Dept. for disposal by a licensed medical waste disposal service. Please call 684-3143, ext. 150 for more information on this service.

Alternately, used sharps should be placed in rigid plastic containers, such as old milk jugs or detergent bottles. The lid should be placed back on these containers and they should be clearly labeled “sharps” or “needles”. These containers should be placed in with the garbage; never try to recycle a container which contains needles or other medical waste.

## **HOUSEHOLD PHARMACEUTICALS**

The age-old advice of flushing pharmaceuticals down the toilet is now considered to be the wrong advice. For years, many households and businesses have been in the habit of flushing waste pharmaceuticals down the toilet. However, wastewater treatment plants and septic systems are not designed to treat pharmaceutical wastes and traces of these drugs remain in treated wastewater. Follow these guidelines when using and disposing of old medicines:

### **REDUCE pharmaceutical waste whenever possible.**

- Use all antibiotics as prescribed by your doctor. Not using all doses of an antibiotic could lead to development of antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria.
- Buy only as much as can reasonably be used before the expiration date. For example, don't buy a

bottle with 500 pills just because it's cheaper, unless you will use them all.

- When prescribed a new medication, ask the doctor to prescribe only enough to see if the medication will work for you and in the lowest dose advisable. That way, if the medication doesn't suit you, there is less to waste. Do the same for your pet's medications.

**DISPOSE of the remainder properly.**

- Residents are advised to save all old or unwanted medications for periodic household chemical collection events. Please note that syringes, needles, inhalers and controlled substances are not accepted at these events. Jackson County Health Dept. has sponsored several of these events over the years. Call 684-3143, ext. 128 for more details. Note: If you choose to store your waste while you wait for a collection event to occur, please minimize the risk of accidental poisoning, overdose or diversion by storing medications out of reach of children or in a locked cabinet.
- If a collection program is not available, dispose of your unused pharmaceuticals in the trash, remembering to:
  - 1) Remove or mark over all labels that identify the materials as pharmaceuticals or that could provide personal information about you, including prescription information that someone could try to refill.
  - 2) Render them unattractive to children and thieves by dissolving them in a small amount of water or alcohol, or by grinding them up and mixing them with coffee grounds or kitty litter.
  - 3) Put them in a second container or small plastic bag and hide them in your trash.
  - 4) Never burn pharmaceuticals or personal care products in a burn barrel. Uncontrolled burning can create extremely harmful air pollutants.

**NOTE:** The information in the Jackson County Green Guide is provided as a service of the Jackson County Health Department, Solid Waste & Recycling Programs. All phone numbers listed are area code 618 unless otherwise noted. Inclusion of any business in this publication in no way represents endorsement by Jackson County Health Dept. All information is accurate to the best of our knowledge and is subject to change without notice. Any exclusion from this list is unintentional.