

More Recycling Options

Don't toss anything in the trash bin without checking to see if it is recyclable first. There are huge inroads in this area and here is the latest list (you might want to clip and save for future reference):

Styrofoam: This is huge! A local recycler, Phoenix Recycling, now accepts polystyrene (a.k.a. Styrofoam) for recycling. Located at 2040 S. Hamilton Rd in Columbus, they can be reached at 614-226-9617. There should be a drop-off box at their location—please don't include used food containers.

Filters: Don't toss out your used Brita water filter (or other water filters)! You can drop them off at participating Whole Foods stores (although I looked online and the Columbus store does not as of yet participate) or mail them directly to Preserve who will use the plastic casing in their line of cups, plates, cutting boards and food storage containers. Preserve, maker of eco-friendly products like toothbrushes and razors, also uses the activated carbon and resin insides of the filter by converting it into energy.

#5 plastics: You can also send Preserve your hard-to-find recycling for #5 plastics like yogurt cups and hummus tubs and other food containers. Through their Gimme 5 program, Preserve is doing their part to keep these plastics out of landfills. You can also send them their own products back to recycle. To find out how to send things in, go to www.preserveproducts.com/gimme5/ or call 888-354-7296.

VHS Tapes: You can send your unwanted tapes to Alternative Community Training, a non-profit Missouri company that provides jobs to people with disabilities. They erase the tapes, re-sell those in good shape and recycle the plastic parts of the rest. To learn more, call 800-359-4607. Send tapes to ACT, 2200 Burlington, Columbia, MO 65202.

Wine corks: Take your old wine corks over to Simple Indulgences, the wine shop in downtown Delaware. Owner Stanya Doty will send them off with others for recycling. There are also some organizations listed online that will take wine corks for recycling.

Crayons: Here's a good one for schools and for anyone with kids...a national crayon recycling program. All you have to do is collect them as is, box and ship them to: Crayon Recycle Program, 721 Village Rd., Pelican Lake, WI 54463. To find our more details, go to www.crazycrayons.com or call 800-561-0922.

Trophies, medals and awards: Not sure what to do with all those awards gathering dust in the attic? Gather them up and ship them to any number of award companies who either recycle them for parts or re-engrave and donate them to non-profits. Companies include Total Awards & Promotions (www.awardsmall.com) or Awardex (awardex.com), both in the Chicago area. You can contact them online or at 800-638-6462 (Total Awards) and 847-794-3347 (Awardex).

Batteries: Don't throw away those AAAs! You can recycle all sorts of batteries, including those common household ones at Batteries Plus. Our local store is located at 8593 Columbus Pike in Lewis Center. Give them a call with questions at 614-396-5490.

Save some of these items up over time along with other families or an organization to which you belong and share shipping costs. Landfills and future generations will thank you.

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