

South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association

Guide to Proper Disposal

in the South Suburbs

South suburban residents 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 landfilled 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. If you need additional information, please call the **South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association at (708) 206-1155**.

Items that end up in landfills never decompose!



If you have questions about recycling aluminum, paper or metal, call your waste hauler for information about the recycling program in your town.



Mention of companies or organizations in this directory does not constitute an endorsement of or recommendation for use by the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association.

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. Contrary to popular belief, aerosol cans do not contain chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). However, they pose a hazard to waste haulers if not handled properly, so check with your disposal service to see if they accept empty aerosol cans.

Residents can also bring aerosol cans to the next scheduled **Household Hazardous Waste** collection day. For more information, contact the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency web site, www.epa.state.il.us, or phone **217-785-8604**.

APPLIANCES

Major appliances (sometimes called "white goods") include air conditioners, clothes washers and dryers, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, freezers, ranges and water heaters. All south suburban haulers pick up and properly dispose of these items for their customers, usually on the regular trash collection day.

According to state law, the homeowner must remove the doors of refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, and dryers. Refrigerant gas (freon) and electrical switches containing mercury are also the responsibility of the homeowner, who must hire a certified appliance processor to have them removed.

Residents should contact their waste haulers for complete information about preparing items for pick up and also about any extra charge for this service.

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 a spring or fall **Household Hazardous Waste Collection**. The Illinois EPA's schedule is available at www.epa.state.il.us or by calling 217-785-8604.

See **Motor Oil** section for more automotive product information.



*Recycle your old
batteries and used oil.*

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.

Household Batteries (dry cell): Common household or dry cell batteries contain heavy metals such as mercury, cadmium, and lead, and should never be landfilled 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**. The Illinois EPA's schedule is available at www.epa.state.il.us or by calling 217-785-8604.

Battery Types & Sizes

Alkaline and carbon-zinc
(9-volt, D, C, AA, AAA)

Mercuric-oxide (button, some
Cylindrical and rectangular)

Common Uses

Cassette players, radios, toys,
flashlights, etc.

Hearing aids, heart monitors
Communication devices, cameras

Silver-oxide and zinc-air (button)

Hearing aids, watches, cameras,
paging devices, calculators

Lithium (9-volt, C, AA, coin, button)

Cameras, calculators, computers
pacemakers, watches

Car Batteries

Markham

Interstate Battery
16220 Crawford Ave
708-333-2580

Mokena

Interstate Battery
8500 191 St
708-479-4500

Plainfield

Interstate Battery
23841 W. Arco Ct.
815-436-4787

Ni-cad (nickel-cadmium) **Batteries** are used for cell phones and other electronic devices, such as kitchen appliances, portable vacuum cleaners and power tools.

All south suburban RADIO SHACK locations collect and recycle Ni-cad batteries, from any source.

The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation gives information on how and where to recycle Ni-cad rechargeable batteries. The phone number is **1-800-822-8837**, and the web site is www.rbrc.com

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. Each waste hauler has certain guidelines and restrictions. Please call your waste hauler for detailed information.

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 are available by calling **1-800-348-8700**.

To dispose of equipment that is no longer useful, south suburban residents and businesses can contact Intercon Solutions 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, Intercons process includes melting computer hard drives for security protection.

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.

Intercon Solutions is located in Chicago Heights at 11th and Washington, two blocks east of the UP/CSX rail line, and three blocks north of Route 30/Lincoln Highway. Residents can call (888) 452-5642 to schedule an appointment to drop off equipment.

More information about Intercon Solutions is available at www.interconsolutions.com.

Computers, printers and monitors can be recycled and working models donated. Please call to schedule drop off. Free to residence.

Tinley Park
Assistive Technology Exchange
United Cerebral Palsy
444-8460 x231

Plainfield
Vintage Tech Recyclers
25503 W. Ruff St. Unit C
815-609-7013

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

The following places will accept and properly dispose of old fire extinguishers:

- EFR Fire Equipment
189th & Wolf Road, E-3
Mokena, IL (708) 479-6490

- 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 Collection sponsored by the Illinois EPA each spring or fall. The Illinois EPAs schedule is available at www.epa.state.il.us or by calling **217-785-8604**.

HEATING OIL

Residential heating oil should be drained from tanks into sturdy containers, and delivered to a Household Hazardous Waste collection 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**.

MOTOR OIL

Motor oil never wears out; it just gets dirty. Oil can be recycled, refined and used again, reducing our reliance on imported oil.

The following businesses will accept waste oil and oil filters at no charge:

- *Jiffy Lube*
- *Oil & Go*
- *Oil Experts*
- *Oil Express*
- *Pep Boys*
- *Pit Stop 500*

These companies do not accept old tires or batteries.

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.) Contact www.polystyrene.org for more recycling options.

PAINT

To dispose of latex (water-based) paint, mix it with an absorbent material such as kitty litter. When it is dry, it can be placed in the garbage with other household trash. Allow the empty can to dry, then recycle the can and lid.

To dispose of oil-based paint, store it until the next **Household Hazardous Waste** collection sponsored by the Illinois EPA. Information is available www.epa.state.il.us or by calling **217-785-8604**.

PAPER RECYCLING (Shredding Services)

Call first to set up drop off date.

Blue Island

ACI

2872 Vermont Street

708-388-1099

Shark Shredding, Inc.

1-866-557-4275

Serves: Chicagoland, NW Indiana, Southern Wisconsin

www.sharkshredding.com

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 propane tanks at the following places:

- AMERIGAS

2801 East 175th St.

Lansing, IL (708) 534-2263

(Will repair and refill tanks)

- Ace Hardware Stores

(call first)

- Plainfield Propane

25224 W. Rt. 30

Plainfield, IL (815) 436-2011

(also BBQ tanks 20lbs)

- Ashland Propane

16525 Vincennes Ave.

South Holland, IL (708) 339-3400

RAILROAD TIES

Residents can bring railroad ties to Homewood Disposal, Inc., 17415 S. Ashland Avenue, East Hazel Crest, Illinois, 708-798-1004.

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.) The U.S. EPA, in conjunction with the Purdue Research Foundation, suggests that the best way to dispose of an ionizing smoke detector is to send it back to the manufacturer. If it still works, you can also take it to the **Salvation Army** to be reused.

SYRINGES (SHARPS)

Sharps Compliance, Inc. **Sharps Disposal By Mail System** contains everything required to safely dispose of sharps medical waste and properly package the kit within the U.S. Postal Service regulation for mailing to a disposal site via the U.S. Mail. Return postage will be paid by Sharps Compliance, Inc. Give them a call at **1-800-722-5657**.

Syringes/sharps can also be placed 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. This is to protect waste haulers who can contract *AIDS* or other serious infections from a puncture,

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. In addition, thermostats can be returned to the manufacturer.

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 mosquitos. Scrap tires should be collected to be retreaded, burned for energy, or converted into molded rubber products, rubberized asphalt paving, and athletic surfaces.

To properly dispose of used tires, contact your nearest dealer. Almost all dealers accept old tires and charge a disposal fee of approximately \$3.00.

<u>Frankfort</u> Tire Tracks 859 S. Center St. 815-469-4444 \$2.25	<u>Orland Park</u> Empire Tire & Battery 16201 Wolf Rd. 708-349-6280 \$2.50	<u>Steger</u> Scotts U-Save 3530 Chicago Rd 708-756-3999 \$5.00	<u>Tinley Park</u> VIP Tire Co. 7121 171 st St. 708-614-1700 \$2.75
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