

The **DOs** and **DON'Ts** of **Recycling** in Hillsborough County



Hillsborough
County Florida

Tampa Bay
Times
NIE
newspaper in education
tampabay.com/nie



Remember to
**Trash the
Tanglers**



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Reducing, reusing and recycling conserves natural resources, reduces the amount of waste that must be landfilled or burned and decreases pollution and the demand for energy. Reducing, reusing and recycling:

- Conserves natural resources such as timber, water and minerals
- Reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills and incinerators
- Prevents pollution by reducing the need to collect new raw materials
- Saves energy
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change
- Helps sustain the environment for future generations
- Helps create new well-paying jobs in recycling and manufacturing industries

How you can help?

Reduce: Reduce the amount of new products that you buy by asking for and purchasing recycled and upcycled products. Reduce the amount of waste you produce by choosing products that use less packaging, such as bulk items.

Reuse: Whenever possible, choose reusable products, such as refillable water bottles and canvas shopping bags, over disposable products. Reuse, repair, share and donate items before throwing them away.

Recycle: Recycle whenever possible. Consider composting at home to divert organic scraps from the waste stream.

Remember: Remember to recycle correctly. Only certain materials are recoverable in the recycling program. Attempting to recycle incorrect items can damage recycling equipment.

Source: Environmental Protection Agency, Hillsborough County



Hillsborough County converts nearly 562,000 tons of garbage into energy annually. That's enough recycled energy to power almost all the homes in Valrico for an entire year.

Going beyond the text

Single-stream recycling

Single-stream recycling is a growing trend across the United States. With single-stream recycling, residents can place all items accepted in a program into one container, without the need to sort them into separate containers. Contamination in single-stream recycling is a large and growing problem. Contamination increases recycling costs and degrades the quality of materials, reducing the ability of the materials to be recycled. After reading the information on the next page, do some research about single-stream recycling. Write down the positive and negative points about single-stream recycling. Next, list the ways residents of Hillsborough County can make single-stream recycling more cost-effective and efficient. Using the editorials in the *Tampa Bay Times* as models, write an editorial with the information you have learned. Be sure to cite your sources.

What is single-stream recycling?

How does it work?



Scott Keeler, *Times* file photo

Hillsborough County's recycling program is single-stream. With single-stream recycling, all types of recyclable items accepted in the program are placed together in one bin, with no need for the customer to separate the different types of recyclables. An automated truck collects the recyclables, which get sorted at a

separate site called a material recovery facility (MRF).

At the MRF, materials are sorted by a combination of workers and automated systems, such as magnets, optical scanners and sorting screens.

Once the materials are sorted by material type, they are baled into compacted cubes

and loaded into shipping containers to be shipped to domestic or overseas markets or, in some cases, transported to another site for further processing.

Because single-stream recycling is more convenient and easy for residents, it has nearly doubled the amount of recycling collected from homes in Hillsborough County.

Sources: *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, *Green Machine*, *HowStuffWorks*, *Tampa Bay Times*, *Waste Management*

When in doubt, throw it out!

The largest challenge facing recycling programs today is contamination. Contamination is when nonrecyclable items or excessively dirty materials are placed into the recycling stream.

When nonrecyclable or dirty materials are placed in your blue curbside recycling cart, they can contaminate the entire truckload — meaning that none of the items in that load end up being recycled.

At recycling facilities across the U.S., 16 percent of all collected material is contaminated, meaning that for every 100 tons of recyclables picked up from homes, 16 tons is garbage that must be taken back to a disposal facility.

Contamination in single-stream recycling is a large and growing problem:

- Contamination damages processing equipment and increases processing cost
- Contamination reduces the amount of quality recyclables that can be recovered
- Contamination endangers staff at the recycling facility
- Attempting to recycle items that can't be recovered in your local recycling program causes more harm than good

If you're not sure if an item is recyclable or not, always discard it in your gray trash cart.

See Pages 4-5 for more DOs and DON'Ts of curbside residential recycling in Hillsborough County.

Source: Hillsborough County



How to use your carts

- Fill the gray roll cart with household trash and the blue roll cart with unbagged recyclables that are clean and empty.
- Everything must fit inside the carts in order to be collected.
- Carts must be at the curb by 6 a.m. on your collection days.
- Look for the arrows on the roll cart lids. Place the roll carts at curbside with the arrows pointed toward the street and the handles toward your home.
- Keep your roll carts at least three feet away from each other, mailboxes, vehicles, trees and any other obstructing objects.

DO RECYCLE

these items in your blue cart

Always place recyclables loose in your blue cart, never bagged.

- Clean and empty aluminum cans (no aluminum foil)
- Clean and empty steel and tin cans and containers (no scrap metal)
- Clean and dry paper (no shredded, soggy or soiled paper)
- Clean, dry and flattened cardboard and paperboard
- Clean and empty plastic bottles, jugs and containers (no plastic bags, hoses or shrinkwrap)
- Clean and empty milk, juice and broth cartons
- Clean and empty glass bottles and jars



DON'T RECYCLE

these items in your blue cart

These items are NOT recyclable in your blue cart. Some can be recycled at other locations.

Visit HCFLGov.net/Recycling for more information.

- Clothing, shoes and textiles
- Electronics
- Light bulbs
- Batteries
- Household hazardous waste
- Plastic bags, packaging wrap and film
- Sharps
- Styrofoam
- Yard waste
- Pressurized tanks
- Construction and demolition debris
- Cooking and dining ware, drinking glasses, ceramics and cutlery
- Cooking oils
- Medications
- Clothing hangers
- Rubber items
- Tanglers, such as cords, wires, hoses and tarps



DISCARD these items in your gray cart

These items are contaminants and should be discarded in the trash, never placed in your blue cart.

- Food waste
- Snack and candy wrappers
- Glass windows, mirrors and ceramics
- Artificial plants or trees
- Soiled or wet paper
- Cords and wires
- Diapers
- Ropes, twine, straps and bungee cords
- Garden or pool hoses
- Large plastic items or items with multiple different parts, such as plastic patio furniture or toys



TRASH the tanglers!

Items such as plastic bags, cords, wires, tarps and hoses jam and damage sorting equipment.

Not only can this damage the equipment, but workers must manually remove them, a difficult, dirty and potentially dangerous task.

Recycle plastic bags at your local grocery or big box store. If you can't return bags to store locations, it's okay to discard them in your gray trash cart.

Cords, wires, tarps and hoses of any type should always be discarded in your gray cart.

Trash these tanglers to help us keep our recycling equipment working to recycle items that we can successfully recover!



You've been tagged

If you place items in your blue cart that are not recyclable, your cart may not be emptied and an "Oops!" recycling cart notification tag will be placed on it.

Just remove the problem items and place your recycling cart at the curb on your next regularly scheduled recycling day.

Going beyond the text Upcycling

Look at the list of items that you cannot recycle in your blue cart. While some of these items can be recycled at other locations, some of these items can be upcycled. Discuss with your class what upcycling is. Go through the list of items on this page and on the following website: HCFLGov.net/Recycling. Make a list of which items can be upcycled and how they can be upcycled. Next, look at the Classified advertisements in the *Tampa Bay Times*. Make a list of all of the items that can be upcycled into new items for new purposes. Share your lists and ideas with your class.

NO FOOD in your blue cart

Food residue is one of the most common contaminants in the recycling stream. Food waste of any type is NOT recyclable in your blue cart. Food waste should be discarded in your gray cart.

Always rinse food and drink containers before placing them in your blue cart. When dirty items are placed in your blue cart, they can contaminate the entire load of recycling.



Oops... Your Recycling Cart was Contaminated

There were unrecyclable items in your blue recycling cart. Please help us reduce contamination by placing only accepted recyclables in your blue cart.

These items should NOT go in your blue cart:



Plastic Bags



Electronics



Clothing/Shoes



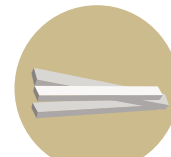
Cords/Wires



Rope/Twine



Garden Hoses



Construction & Demolition Debris



Clothes Hangers



Household Hazardous Waste



Soiled Paper Items



Food Waste



Diapers

Thank you for recycling correctly. Contact us for information about how to properly dispose of these items and other recycling questions:



Hillsborough County Florida

(813) 272-5680

HCFLGov.net/Recycling



Keep plastic bags out of recycling

Never bag your recyclables before putting them in your blue recycling cart. Bagged recyclables aren't recycled because they can't be sorted and they tangle in recycling equipment, bringing processing to a halt.

Not all plastics and metals are recyclable

Whether you have been recycling for decades or just started, it's important to make sure you are recycling correctly. Recycling technology, processes and markets change over time, so recycling program rules have to change, too.

Local curbside recycling programs are designed to recover typical household plastic, glass and metal containers and dry paper and cardboard. Not all plastics and metals can be recycled in curbside programs, even if they have a number on the bottom.

Remember,
**“when in doubt,
throw it out.”**

Ask the expert

Stephen Schweigart is the general manager of the Waste Connections Material Recovery Facility (MRF), located in St. Petersburg.

Q: How long have you had this position?

A: I've been general manager here going on four years.

Q: How long have you worked in this field?

A: Since I was 16, working with my dad — 22 years in this industry.

Q: What are your main duties?

A: Safety is our No. 1 value, so most of my time is spent focusing on our safety culture. After that, it's serving our employees.

Q: What is a typical day like?

A: The first thing I do after arriving at work is say good morning to our employees. After that, I make sure trucks show up to take our finished products to the mills. I monitor our productivity to ensure it remains optimal. I make sure we're meeting the needs of our employees and try to identify ways to make our jobs safer.

Q: What are the most common nonrecyclables that people put in their recycling bin?

A: Stretch film and plastic bags, garden hoses, blankets, clothes, wood and car parts.

Q: What problems are caused by contaminants in the recycling bin?

A: Downtime! Jams are caused when foreign material enters the system.

Q: Why can it be dangerous to your staff if people put nonrecyclables in their recycling bin?

A: Anytime we have to clear plastic from our screens or unblock a jam, someone needs to physically enter our machine.



There are certain safety measures we need to take to make sure that person stays safe.

Q: What is the cost to remove those materials? Who pays it?

A: We all pay the cost. Less productivity yields higher costs. Our capacity is determined by our productivity. If our productivity is lower and our costs are higher, we can't process as much material and it will force us to be less competitive with pricing.

Q: What do you really want people to know about recycling?

A: I'm asked all the time if we really recycle the material that is brought to us. The answer is yes. At our facility in St. Petersburg, we will process more than 105,000 tons in 2017. A Honda Civic weighs about 1 ton. Imagine what 105,000 Honda Civics look like lined up. That's a lot of diversion from our landfills.

Q: Is there anything else that you'd like to share with our readers?

A: It's our goal to be as efficient and safe as possible. Just because something, such as a car part, is recyclable somewhere, it doesn't mean that it's part of the county's program or can be recovered at our facility. Recycling right will save our residents money and increase the success of our recycling program.

Tampa Bay Recycles

tampabayrecycles.org

Thanks to your participation, Hillsborough and Pinellas counties have made Tampa Bay the top recycling region in Florida, as the two counties are tied with the top recycling rates in the state. Local governments in both counties have teamed up on a new initiative to improve recycling efforts in the region.

In addition to Hillsborough County, Tampa Bay Recycles partners include Pinellas County, the City of Tampa and the City of St. Petersburg. Learn more at tampabayrecycles.org.

Going beyond the text It takes a village

Why is teamwork such an important concept, especially when it comes to environmental stewardship? Using the Tampa Bay Recycles partnership among Hillsborough County, Pinellas County, the City of Tampa and the City of St. Petersburg as an example, discuss with your class how working together makes these individual local governments stronger. What are the benefits of working together for the Tampa Bay community as a whole? What are other examples of environmental problems that could be improved through teamwork? Look for articles in the *Tampa Bay Times* that show examples of teamwork. Write down the main points in these articles that show how this teamwork is improving the situation being written about. Write a blog posting explaining what you have learned.

Green economy

Over the past decade, countries around the world have joined the United Nations in creating green economies. Simply put, "A green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive," defines the United Nations Environment Programme. "Practically speaking, a green economy is one whose growth in income and employment is driven by public and private investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency, and prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services." Learn more about this initiative by visiting unep.org and searching for "green economy." Next, go to the United States Department of Labor job site database at ononline.org, and look for jobs that are "green." Make a list of the jobs and the qualifications you need for those jobs. Which jobs sound interesting? Look in the *Tampa Bay Times* to see if any of these jobs are currently being advertised in our area. See if there are any other jobs in the *Times* that you can add to your green list. Share what you have learned with your class.

Keep Recycling

Trash the tanglers
or return to the store.

Bag Free

Tampa Bay



Hillsborough
County Florida



TampaBayRecycles.org

Economic benefits of waste-to-energy

Waste-to-energy (WTE) plants burn municipal solid waste — your trash — and use the heat to generate electricity.

Both Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa own waste-to-energy facilities. The Hillsborough Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) can burn up to 1,800 tons of waste per day, producing enough electricity to power 35,000 homes.

WTE offers many environmental benefits over landfilling trash. WTE reduces greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, conserves land by reducing the need for landfills and generates clean, renewable energy.

What you may not know is that waste-to-energy plants bring significant economic benefits to their communities, too.

WTE facilities generate energy to sell to the local power grid and create high-paying jobs that cannot be outsourced. The average WTE plant is responsible for nearly 60 jobs!

Sources: Environmental Protection Agency, Hillsborough County, Solid Waste Association of North America, Waste-to-Energy Research and Technology Council



Trucks enter the Hillsborough County Resource Recovery Facility.

Skip O'Rourke, *Times* file photo



Garbage is lifted by crane and placed into a hopper.

Skip O'Rourke, *Times* file photo



Workers monitor all systems in a control room deep inside the plant and control the production of electrical power from municipal waste.

Skip O'Rourke, *Times* file photo



Huge furnaces burn municipal waste to produce electricity.

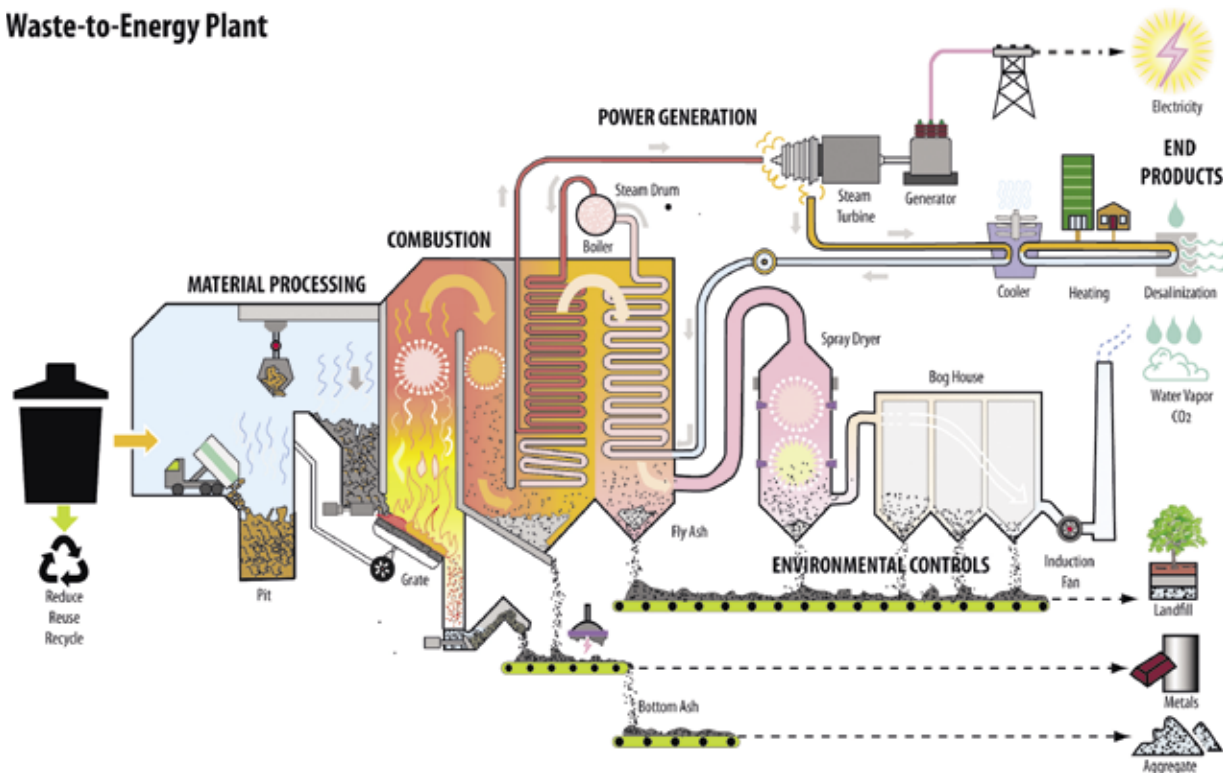
Skip O'Rourke, *Times* file photo



Steam produced from the burning of municipal waste turns a turbine to power a generator that produces electricity.

Skip O'Rourke, *Times* file photo

Waste-to-Energy Plant



How does waste-to-energy work?

In a waste-to-energy plant, municipal solid waste, or trash, is incinerated to create thermal energy, which is then converted to mechanical energy in order to generate electricity. Here's how it works:

1. Waste is burned to produce heat (thermal energy).
2. The heat is used to turn water into high-pressure steam in a boiler.
3. The rising steam turns the blades of a turbine, converting the thermal energy into mechanical energy.
4. The turbine powers a generator, producing electricity.

Your trash makes electricity



1



Trash is picked up at curbside and delivered to the Hillsborough County Resource Recovery Facility.

2

At the Resource Recovery Facility, trash is incinerated to produce electricity.



3



This electricity is used to power public utilities facilities and is sold to electric utilities.

Skip O'Rourke, Times file photo

4

Metal is removed from the ash and recycled.



5



The remaining ash is landfilled.

James Borchuck, Times file photo

The Hillsborough County Resource Recovery Facility:

Burns up to
1,800 tons
of trash per day

Saves
\$500,000

per year in utility costs by providing electricity to county-owned buildings

Reduces the amount of material that is landfilled by

80%

Produces
\$450,000

in revenue per year by recovering and recycling metals

Generates
\$16 million
per year by selling electricity to the grid



Did you know?

In fiscal year 2016, Hillsborough County incinerated 579,106 tons of solid waste and landfilled 237,363 tons of solid waste.

Going beyond the text

Do the research

In addition to environmental benefits, waste-to-energy plants also bring economic benefits to their communities. Do some research about waste-to-energy plants on the Internet. Where are these facilities located? Are they only in the United States? What are the economic benefits? What are the environmental benefits? Once you have gathered all the information, write a news story about the information. Use the news articles in the *Tampa Bay Times* as a model for your article.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

What is household hazardous waste?

Did you know that many of the everyday products we use in our homes are potentially harmful to humans, wildlife and the environment?

Products that contain ingredients that are toxic, flammable, corrosive or reactive are known as household hazardous waste (HHW).

Common examples of HHW include cleaners, solvents, paints, stains, pesticides, herbicides, antifreeze, motor oil, nail polish remover, flares, propane tanks, ammunition, pool chemicals and rechargeable batteries.

Improper disposal of HHW can pollute the environment, endanger wildlife and threaten human health.

HHW

DOs and DON'Ts

- DON'T** put HHW in your blue recycling cart.
- DON'T** discard HHW in your gray trash cart.
- DON'T** pour HHW down the drain or toilet, on the ground or into storm sewers.
- DO** take HHW to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center for proper disposal.



Going beyond the text

Spreading the word

Improper disposal of household hazardous waste can pollute the environment, endanger wildlife and threaten human health. If you use any products in or around your home that are classified as hazardous, you must be very careful with those products around people and animals. The Environmental Protection Agency is trying to help consumers find products that perform well and are safer for human health and the environment. The website epa.gov/saferchoice has a searchable database of safer products. As a well-informed citizen, it is your job to help spread the word about the Safer Choice program.

The purpose of an advertisement is to sell something or to provide information. The purpose of a public service announcement (PSA), a type of advertisement, is to inform, educate or persuade the public. A PSA that you read in the newspaper will be different from one you see on the Internet, in a text or on television.

Look through the *Tampa Bay Times* to find examples of traditional advertisements and public service announcements. Notice the difference in the visuals, language used and rhetoric being presented. With a partner or in a small group, use the information on these pages and the EPA website to create one PSA to be printed in the newspaper and one to be presented on television or the Internet. Share your PSA with your classmates.

HHW disposal service

now available to City residents

All residents of Hillsborough County — including residents of Plant City, Tampa and Temple Terrace — may bring their household hazardous waste to the county's HHW Collection Centers. Residents must show a photo ID.

Hillsborough County HHW Collection Center locations

Hillsborough County offers three HHW Collection Centers for use by Hillsborough County residential household customers. Residents must show a photo ID.

HHW is accepted only during the days and times listed. Commercial or excessive quantities of waste will not be accepted.

Sheldon Road

9805 Sheldon Road
Tampa, FL 33635
First Saturday monthly
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

South County

13000 U.S. 41
Gibsonton, FL 33534
Second Saturday monthly
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Hillsborough Heights

6209 County Road 579
Seffner, FL 33584
Third Saturday monthly
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Questions about HHW?

Call 813-272-5680, option 4
or email PUD-SpecialWaste@HillsboroughCounty.org.



Items accepted

at Hillsborough County HHW Collection Centers

- Aerosols
- Ammunition and flares
- Cleaning chemicals
- Gasoline and diesel fuel
- Mercury thermostats and thermometers
- Motor and cooking oil*
- Fire extinguishers
- Fluorescent light bulbs (limit 10)
- Paint, stain and varnish** (limit 10 1-gallon containers and five 5-gallon containers; must be sealed and not leaking)
- Paint primer, thinner and stripper
- Pesticides, herbicides and insecticides
- Pool and spa chemicals
- Propane tanks (limit five 30-pound tanks)
- Rechargeable batteries
- Auto, motorcycle, lawn mower and marine batteries

* Cooking oil also is accepted at Cooking Oil Recycling Effort stations located throughout the county. See Pages 14-15 for more information.

** Paint, stain and varnish also are accepted at Hillsborough County Community Collection Centers. See Pages 12-13 for more information.

Items NOT accepted

at Hillsborough County HHW Collection Centers

- Biomedical waste and sharps: Used syringes and needles can be disposed of through the free Bay Area Sharps Disposal Program. Visit hillsborough.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/environmental-health/biomedical-waste for more information.
- Electronics: Electronics are accepted only at Hillsborough County Community Collection Centers. See Pages 12-13 for more information.
- Explosives: Contact your local law enforcement agency. In an emergency, dial 9-1-1.
- Medications and pharmaceuticals: Unwanted and expired medications can be disposed of for free in the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office drug drop-off boxes. Drop-off boxes are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Visit hcsotampa.fl.us/Articles/Articles/Prescription-Drug-Drop-Boxes.aspx for more information.
- Radioactive materials: Contact the Florida Department of Health Bureau of Radiation Control at 850-245-4266. In an emergency, call the 24-hour Radiological Emergency number: 407-297-2095.

Making safer choices

The Environmental Protection Agency's Safer Choice program helps consumers find products that perform well and are safer for human health and the environment. Visit epa.gov/saferchoice for a searchable database of safer products.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Reduce the amount of HHW in your home by choosing environmentally friendly products when shopping for household cleaners, laundry detergent, dish soap and pest control products. Purchase only the amount needed to do the job.

Reuse products by donating unused portions to friends, family or community organizations.

Recycle by taking unwanted or expired HHW products to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.

Sources: Environmental Protection Agency, Hillsborough County

Community Collection Centers

Hillsborough County operates Community Collection Centers (CCCs) to provide residents a convenient and responsible means of disposing of items not collected curbside. All residents of Hillsborough County, including those residing in Tampa, Temple Terrace and Plant City, have access to the CCCs to dispose of unwanted electronics or paint by showing a valid photo ID to verify they live within the county.

However, only residential customers residing within Hillsborough County's solid waste management jurisdiction have access to the CCCs to dispose of appliances, old furniture, tires and other bulky items which are not collected curbside. **Customers must show a valid photo ID and a copy of their Hillsborough County tax assessment (property tax bill) to dispose of bulky items besides paint and electronics.**

Items accepted at Hillsborough County Community Collection Centers

- Concrete
- Electronics (limit five items per month)
- Furniture
- Household appliances
- Mattresses and box springs
- Paint, stain and varnish** (limit 10 1-gallon containers and five 5-gallon containers; must be sealed and not leaking)
- Steel
- Tile
- Tires (limit 12 per year)
- Treated wood



** Paint, stain and varnish also are accepted at Hillsborough County HHW Collection Centers. See Pages 10-11 for more information.

Hillsborough County Community Collection Center locations

Hours: Mon - Sat, 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Alderman Ford

9402 County Road 39
Lithia, FL 33547

Hillsborough Heights

6209 County Road 579
Seffner, FL 33584

Northwest County

8001 W Linebaugh Ave.
Tampa, FL 33625

South County

13000 U.S. 41
Gibson, FL 33534

Prevent littering and illegal dumping

Times staff photo

Edmund D. Fountain, Times file photo

Daniel Wallace, Times file photo

Report illegal dumping

Help keep Hillsborough County clean and safe by reporting illegal dumping. Visit HCFLGov.net/AtYourService and click on Code Violation Request.

Litter and illegal dumping of trash is more than just a cosmetic problem. It pollutes the environment, threatens human health, harms wildlife, lowers property values and impacts our quality of life.

Litter and trash clog storm drains and sewers and end up in our waterways. Wildlife and pets get poisoned by, tangled in and cut by litter. Roadside food waste attracts animals to dangerous traffic.

Littered open containers and debris such as tires become breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Illegal dump sites attract rodents and insects, harm property values and are dangerous to children and animals.

Littering and illegal dumping cost us money: Cleanup costs the United States almost \$11.5 billion each year, according to Keep America Beautiful.

Littering and illegal dumping are not only morally wrong, harmful and expensive — they are illegal. Penalties for littering or illegal dumping in Florida can include community service, fines, points on your driver's license, misdemeanor or felony charges and jail time.



James Borchuck, Times file photo

Victor Junco, Times file photo

James Borchuck, Times file photo

Sources: Florida Legislature, Hillsborough County, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful

Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful

Hillsborough County combats litter through an active partnership with Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful. Activities include:

- Adopt-A-Road/Spot/Park/Shoreline programs (ongoing)
- The Great American Cleanup (spring)
- Hillsborough River and Coastal Cleanup (September)
- America Recycles Day (November)
- Education program in Hillsborough County Public Schools (ongoing)

Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful is the local affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, the nation's largest volunteer-based community. Their mission is to promote a culture of environmental stewardship through volunteer and educational opportunities. Visit keeptampabaybeautiful.org for more information or to volunteer.



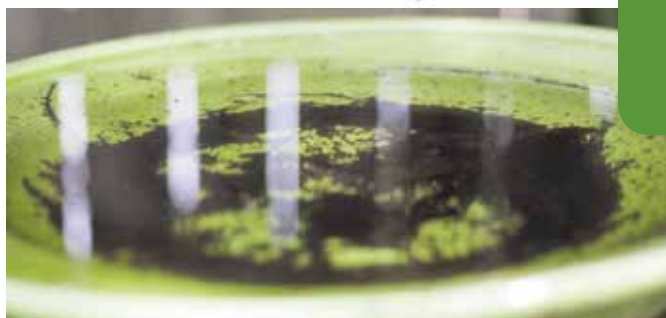
Report littering

Report littering activity anonymously by calling the Litter Hotline at 1-877-Y-Litter. Have the license tag number, date, time and location of the incident ready to report.

Don't give mosquitoes a home

More than 40 species of mosquitoes live in Hillsborough County, but you don't have to let them make themselves at home in your yard!

Mosquitoes breed by laying eggs in and near standing water. As little as one teaspoon of water — the amount that can fit in a bottle cap — is enough for mosquitoes to breed in. It takes only a few days for an egg to grow into an adult mosquito.

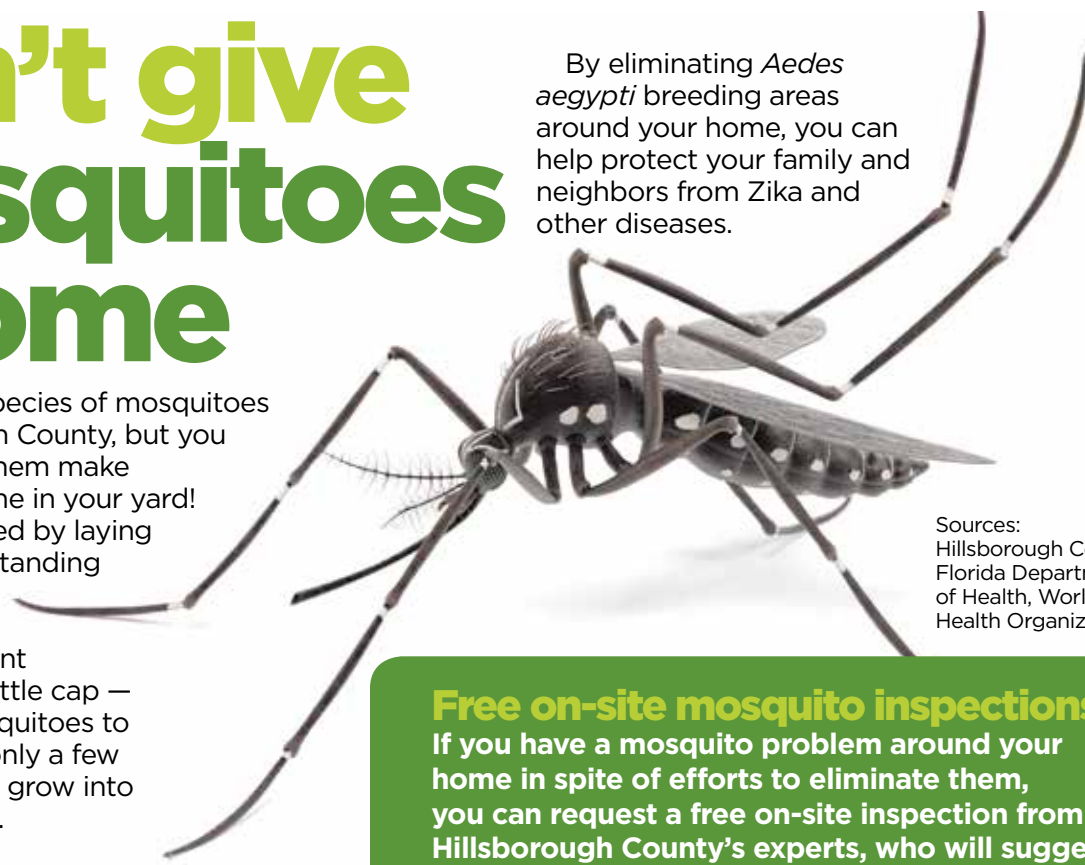


Mosquitoes cause more than annoyance — they also spread disease. Mosquito-borne diseases include chikungunya fever, dengue fever, malaria, West Nile virus and Zika.

Unlike other mosquitoes, the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito prefers to live near and feed on people. Because of this, it is more likely than other types of mosquito to transmit disease to us. It is the primary mosquito responsible for spreading the Zika virus in Florida.

The good news is that you can help to eliminate mosquito breeding sites by simply cleaning up your yard!

By eliminating *Aedes aegypti* breeding areas around your home, you can help protect your family and neighbors from Zika and other diseases.



Sources: Hillsborough County, Florida Department of Health, World Health Organization

Free on-site mosquito inspections
If you have a mosquito problem around your home in spite of efforts to eliminate them, you can request a free on-site inspection from Hillsborough County's experts, who will suggest specific solutions for your location. Visit HCFHGov.net/Mosquito or call 813-635-5400 to request an inspection.



- Drain standing water from objects found around the home and yard. Items such as flower vases, toys,

refrigerator drain pans, house gutters, pool covers, boat and car covers, trash cans and plant pots can provide breeding grounds for *Aedes aegypti*.

- Discard debris from your yard. Old tires, barrels, bottles and cans, old plastic swimming pools and old appliances can all harbor *Aedes aegypti*.
- Empty and clean pet water bowls, bird baths and fountains. At least once a week, rinse and refill them with fresh water.

Going beyond the text

Environmental stewardship

We all know that littering and illegal dumping are wrong, harmful, expensive and illegal, not to mention unsightly. Fast food wrappers thrown on the side of the road, cigarette butts thrown out car windows, abandoned furniture left by a lake, empty energy drink cans lying in storm drains ... it is all litter, and it ruins and endangers the environment in our home, Tampa Bay. So what can you do to help protect your home? What is environmental stewardship? Look up the phrase online. Look through the *Tampa Bay Times* for a week to find as many articles as you can showing people being environmental stewards. Share what you find with your class.



Cooking il Recycling Effort

Get to the **C.O.R.E.** of the matter

Used cooking oil and grease are a serious problem for home plumbing and for Hillsborough County's wastewater collection system.

Cooking oil that's poured down the drain doesn't disappear.

It gels and solidifies into thick layers inside drainpipes, sewage pipelines and sewage lift stations, constricting water flow in pipes and causing equipment malfunctions.

The result? Sewage backups, overflows onto streets and foul odors in homes and neighborhoods. It's messy, smelly and costly to clean up.

C.O.R.E. knowledge

For more information about Hillsborough County's Cooking Oil Recycling Effort, visit HCFLGov.net/core or call 813-272-5977, ext. 43515.

Cooking oil **DOs** and **DON'Ts**

DON'T put grease or cooking oil down the sink, even if you follow it with hot water or soap.

DON'T flush cooking oil and grease down the toilet.

DON'T put greasy foods down the garbage disposal.

DO scrape leftover food into the trash before washing pots, pans and dishes.

DO use a fine-mesh strainer in your sink to prevent debris from going down the drain.

DO clean out leftover foods from your sink and dispose of in the trash.

DO recycle used cooking oil, fats and grease at designated collection stations!

How to recycle your used cooking oil

All cooking oils, including frying oils and bacon and hamburger drippings, can cause problems in home plumbing and the sewage collection system. Here's what to do:

1. Carefully pour cooled cooking oil into a large, sturdy plastic or wax-coated container.
2. Cap the container and store it in a cool, safe location.
3. Don't mix the contents with any other liquids or products.
4. Once the container is full, bring it to a Cooking Oil Recycling Effort station or to a Hillsborough County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.

Where to recycle your used cooking oil

Used cooking oil is accepted at Hillsborough County's three Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers:

Sheldon Road

9805 Sheldon Road
Tampa, FL 33635
First Saturday monthly, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

South County

13000 U.S. 41
Gibsonton, FL 33534
Second Saturday monthly, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Hillsborough Heights

6209 County Road 579
Seffner, FL 33584
Third Saturday monthly, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Residents must show a photo ID at Hillsborough County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. Commercial or excessive quantities of waste will not be accepted.



Going beyond the text

Recycled cooking oil is filtered and processed for use in products including livestock feed, soaps, biofuels and fertilizer. That is pretty cool and creative, isn't it? Whether you are recycling, upcycling or making something brand new from something that was once considered bad, you are making our world a better place. Can you believe there is a woman who takes viruses and makes batteries? Innovation is a process that begins with imagination and results in the creation of something of value for society. Check out these videos, created by NBC Learn and the National Science Foundation: http://nieonline.com/tbtimes/special_report.cfm. After watching the videos, brainstorm with your classmates about innovative ways you can take used products and create new and useful products.

You also can recycle your used cooking oil and grease 24 hours a day, seven days a week at free-standing collection stations throughout the county. Look for the brightly colored, free-standing cabinets with the Cooking Oil Recycling Effort identification.

Cooking Oil Recycling Effort collection station locations

Public Utility Service Centers

Northwest Customer Service Center
15610 Premiere Drive
Tampa, FL 33624

South-Central Brandon Support Operations Complex
332 N Falkenburg Road
Tampa, FL 33619

Libraries

78th Street Community Library
7625 Palm River Road
Tampa, FL 33619

Austin Davis Public Library
17808 Wayne Road
Odessa, FL 33556

Bloomington Regional Library
1906 Bloomington Ave.
Valrico, FL 33596

Brandon Regional Library
619 Vonderburg Drive
Brandon, FL 33511

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 W Bearss Ave.
Tampa, FL 33618

Riverview Branch Library
10509 Riverview Drive
Tampa, FL 33578

Seffner-Mango Branch Library
410 N Kingsway Road
Seffner, FL 33584

SouthShore Regional Library
15816 Beth Shields Way
Ruskin, FL 33573

Upper Tampa Bay Regional Public Library
11211 Countryway Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33626

Parks and Recreation Centers

Northlakes Recreation Center
2640 Lakeview Drive
Tampa, FL 33618

Woodlake Park
9207 Woodlake Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33615

Other County Locations

Covington Garden Pump Station
6505 Covington Garden Drive
Tampa, FL 33572

Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission
3629 Queen Palm Drive
Tampa, FL 33619

Northwest County Solid Waste Transfer Station
8001 W Linebaugh Ave.
Tampa, FL 33625

Town 'N Country Pump Station
5505 Town 'N Country Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33615

6th Street Utility Pump Station
1306 Sixth St. SE
Ruskin, FL 33570

Fishhawk Utility Pump Station
15401 Fishhawk Blvd.
Lithia, FL 33547

Durant Road Utility Pump Station
5125 Durant Road
Dover, FL 33527

Via Viva Utility Pump Station
980 Via Viva
Brandon, FL 33511

South Regional Service Center
410 30th St. SE
Ruskin, FL 33570



Did you know?

Recycled cooking oil is filtered and processed for use in products including livestock feed, soaps, biofuels and fertilizer.



Sources:
Hillsborough County, Florida Industrial Pretreatment Association

About Hillsborough County

Solid Waste

Management Division

Hillsborough County's Solid Waste Management Division oversees waste collection, disposal and recycling within their solid waste management jurisdiction. The completely integrated operation includes collection, transportation, disposal and reporting of all solid waste generated or brought into the system.

Hillsborough County residential solid waste customers receive twice-a-week garbage collection, once-a-week recycling and once-a-week yard waste pickup curbside. Customers also receive access to the Community Collection Centers to allow for the convenient disposal of items that are not collected curbside.

The mission of Hillsborough County government is to provide effective quality service at a reasonable cost with courtesy, integrity and accountability in a manner that protects and enhances the quality of life of our diverse population.

Recycling contacts

Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management Division

HCFLGov.net/recycling
813-272-5680

Plant City Solid Waste Department

plantcitygov.com/64/Solid-Waste
813-757-9208

City of Tampa Department of Solid Waste & Environmental Program Management

tampagov.net/solid-waste
813-348-1146

City of Temple Terrace Public Works Department

templeterrace.com/182/Public-Works
813-506-6570

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Florida Standards

This publication and its activities incorporate the following Florida Standards for middle and high school students.

Science: SC.6.N.1.5; SC.7.P.11.2; SC.68.CS-PC.3.1; SC.68.CS-PC.3.5; SC.68.E.6.6; SC.912.CS-CC.1.5; SC.912.E.6.6; SC.912.L.17.14; SC.912.L.17.15; SC.912.L.17.16; SC.912.L.17.17; SC.912.L.17.20 **Language Arts:** LAFS.68.L.1.1; LAFS.68.L.1.2; LAFS.68.L.2.3; LAFS.68.L.3.4; LAFS.68.L.3.5; LAFS.68.L.3.6; LAFS.68.RI.1.1; LAFS.68.RI.1.2; LAFS.68.RI.1.3; LAFS.68.RI.2.4; LAFS.68.RI.2.5; LAFS.68.RI.2.6; LAFS.68.RI.3.7; LAFS.68.RI.3.8; LAFS.68.RST.1.1; LAFS.68.RST.1.2; LAFS.68.SL.1.1; LAFS.68.SL.1.2; LAFS.68.SL.1.3; LAFS.68.SL.2.4; LAFS.68.SL.2.5; LAFS.68.SL.2.6; LAFS.68.W.1.1; LAFS.68.W.1.2; LAFS.68.W.1.3; LAFS.68.W.2.4; LAFS.68.W.2.5; LAFS.68.W.2.6; LAFS.68.W.3.7; LAFS.68.W.3.8; LAFS.68.W.3.9; LAFS.68.W.4.10; LAFS.912.L.1.1; LAFS.912.L.1.2; LAFS.912.L.2.3; LAFS.912.L.3.4; LAFS.912.L.3.5; LAFS.912.L.3.6; LAFS.912.RI.1.2; LAFS.912.RI.1.3; LAFS.912.RI.2.4; LAFS.912.RI.2.5; LAFS.912.RI.2.6; LAFS.912.RI.3.7; LAFS.912.RST.1.1; LAFS.912.RST.1.2; LAFS.912.RST.2.5; LAFS.912.RST.2.6; LAFS.912.RST.3.7; LAFS.912.SL.1.1; LAFS.912.SL.1.2; LAFS.912.SL.1.3; LAFS.912.SL.2.4; LAFS.912.SL.2.5 LAFS.912.SL.2.6; LAFS.912.W.1.1; LAFS.912.W.1.2; LAFS.912.W.1.3; LAFS.912.W.2.4; LAFS.912.W.2.5; LAFS.912.W.2.6; LAFS.912.W.3.7; LAFS.912.W.3.8; LAFS.912.W.3.9; LAFS.912.W.4.10