



Pasco Recycling 2022



Recycling@MyPasco.net
727-856-4539

Facebook.com/PascoCountySolidWasteAndRecycling

Calendar of events 2022-2023

April 2022

Earth Day at Crews Lake
Wilderness Park
April 23, 2022

June 2022

World Oceans Day Cleanup
June 8, 2022

September 2022

Keep Pasco Beautiful Cleanup
September 17, 2022

November 2022

Pasco Upcycle & Arts Festival
November 12, 2022

America Recycles Day
November 15, 2022

December 2022

Christmas Tree Recycling
December 26, 2022 –
January TBD, 2023

January 2023

Florida Arbor Day
January 20, 2023

March 2023

Great American Cleanup
March 4, 2023

All dates subject to change. Visit MyPasco.net or KeepPascoBeautiful.org, or call 727-834-3611 or 727-856-4539, for updated information.

What can I recycle curbside in Pasco County?

- Aluminum cans and metal food cans (clean and dry)
- Plastic bottles, jars and small containers coded 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 (no caps or squirt bottle nozzles)
- Mixed paper and newspaper (clean and dry)
- Corrugated cardboard and thin cardboard (no dirty or greasy cardboard)

What **NOT** to recycle curbside in Pasco County

- **NO** plastic bags
- **NO** glass
- **NO** Styrofoam™
- **NO** milk or juice cartons
- **NO** "tangles" (hoses, wires, tarps)
- **NOTHING** bigger than a cat litter container
- **NOTHING** wet or dirty

What about my bottle caps?



Items like bottle caps are **too** small to be recycled properly in our program.

Please avoid recycling coffee pods, straws, and other items that are smaller than your fist.

What about pizza boxes?



Please do **NOT** recycle pizza boxes with grease stains or leftover crumbs. Clean cardboard, like frozen pizza boxes, can be recycled in our program.



It takes 4 pounds of mined bauxite ore to create 1 pound of aluminum ore.

A product made using recycled aluminum uses 95 percent less energy than making it from raw materials.

Making one ton of paper from recycled pulp can save between 3,000 and 4,000 kilowatt hours over making it from fresh wood.

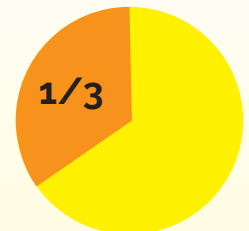
Recycling just one ton of paper saves 15 to 17 mature trees.



Sources: Steel Recycling Institute, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Making new plastic from old uses one-third less energy than to make it from new material.

Remember, plastic is made from petroleum. The more plastic that is recycled, the less need there is to drill for oil.



Recycling steel, such as metal food cans, **SAVES 75 PERCENT** of the energy needed to create it from raw materials.

Curbside trash and recycling collection in Pasco County

In Pasco County, curbside trash and recycling collection services are provided by independent haulers. Residents need to sign up with one of these companies to receive service.

Curbside recycling service is included with curbside trash service in Pasco County. Your trash hauler is obligated to provide you at least once-per-week recycling service.* Contact your trash hauler for your recycling pickup schedule or to order a recycling cart.

All Haul Waste

727-847-2420
AllHaulWaste.com

County Sanitation

888-522-5794
CountySanitationService.com

J.D. Parker & Sons

727-845-1024
JDParkerAndSons.com

Republic Services

727-868-2566
RepublicServices.com

Waste Aid Systems

813-996-1457 or 727-842-9309
WasteAidSystems.com

Waste Connections

352-583-4204 or 727-847-9100
WasteConnections.com

Waste Management of Pasco

813-621-3053 or 800-255-7172
WM.com

Pasco County Recycling Drop-Off Locations

Pasco County residents who do not have curbside recycling service can drop off recycling at the following drop-off sites.

Aluminum cans and metal food cans, plastic bottles, jars and small containers coded 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7, mixed paper and newspaper and corrugated cardboard and thin cardboard are accepted.

West Pasco Recycling Facility

14606 Hays Road,
Spring Hill
Monday – Saturday,
7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
727-861-3053
(also accepts used cooking oils and scrap metal)

East Pasco Transfer Station

9626 Handcart Road,
Dade City
Monday – Saturday,
7 a.m. – 4 p.m.
352-521-0500
(also accepts used cooking oils and scrap metal)

Holiday Area Recycling

Anclote Gulf Park
2305 Baillies Bluff Road,
Holiday
Wednesday – Saturday,
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Land O'Lakes Area Recycling

Senior Services Center
6801 Wisteria Loop,
Land O'Lakes
Monday – Friday,
8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
813-929-1200

*Some restrictions apply

Why no glass?



Glass breaks during the recycling process, contaminating other materials and reducing their recyclability and their value. Glass is also the most expensive material to recycle, and there is currently very little market for it. Place glass in the trash, where it will be sent to Pasco's Waste-to-Energy Facility, burned to produce electricity and likely used in future sustainable public works projects.
Do the right thing and throw glass away.

Going beyond the text: Trash time travelers

Think about the common components of trash today. What do you throw away on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly basis? What happens to your trash after it leaves your house?

Now, think about how this list might differ from the trash list of a settler in colonial times, a farmer during the Great Depression or a family member who lived through World War II. How do you think people of other historical periods disposed of trash? Do some research to see if your assumptions are correct.

Use the Rubbish Reporter worksheet at nieonline.com/tbtimes/downloads/RubbishReporterWorksheet to interview an elderly family or community member. Next, use your completed worksheet to write a short feature article about what your interviewee thought of "trash," how they disposed of trash, and how those ideas and practices might differ from ours today. Use the articles in the *Tampa Bay Times* as models, and make sure that your article includes the 5 Ws: Who, What, When, Where and Why.

Adapted from: "Trash Time Travelers," The Quest for Less, Environmental Protection Agency

Florida Standards: Social Studies: SS.412.A.1.1; SS.412.A.4.4; SS.412.E.1.3
Language Arts: ELA.412.C.1.2; ELA.412.C.1.3; ELA.412.C.1.4; ELA.412.C.1.5; ELA.412.C.3.1; ELA.412.C.4.1; ELA.412.F.1.3; ELA.412.F.1.4; ELA.412.R.2.1
Science: SC.912.L.17.14; SC.912.L.17.16

EARTH DAY

Saturday, April 23, 2022
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Crews Lake Wilderness Park
16739 Crews Lake Drive, Spring Hill



Join us for:

- Lady bug release
- Children's crafts
- DunnDee Farms
- Owl's Nest Sanctuary for Wildlife
- Upcycle vendors
- Paper shredding 9 a.m.-noon
- Rain harvesting and composting workshops (registration required)

Live Remote with Hits 106 • 9 a.m. – noon

Electronics recycling • (first 2 TVs free, all others \$7 each)

Household Hazardous Waste recycling • Bring your mercury-containing thermostats and thermometers for a \$5 gift card



COVANTA

For more information,
contact Lottie Kelley at Covanta Pasco at
727-856-2917, ext. 201 or lkelley@covanta.com.

How to recycle electronics, cellphones and batteries in Pasco County

E-waste is now the fastest-growing waste stream in the world. Approximately 63.3 million tons of e-waste was disposed of worldwide in 2021, and only 17.4 percent of that was recycled properly. Pasco County accepts electronics for recycling at its two Household Hazardous Waste collection centers, listed on Page 7.



Your unused cellphones raise funds for Pasco County Schools

Drop off old and unused cellphones at a Pasco County library – they will be reprogrammed for reuse or mined for recoverable precious materials. Most importantly, they will not end up in a landfill or incinerator. Pasco County schools will receive funds for each phone collected.

Household battery recycling

Drop off old household batteries at all Pasco County libraries and some schools and county offices. Batteries are also accepted at the East Pasco Transfer Station and the West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility. Pasco County accepts electronics for recycling at its two Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers, listed on Page 7.



For more information about recycling electronics, cellphones and batteries, call 727-847-2411, ext. 2046.

Going beyond the text: E-waste

“E-waste” or “electronic waste” describes used electronics that are nearing the end of their useful life, and are discarded, donated or given to a recycler.

Working in pairs or small groups, answer the following questions:

- What kind of electronic devices do you own?
- What electronic devices do you find essential in your life?
- How long do you usually keep electronic devices?
- What do you do with your old or obsolete electronic devices?

- What do you think happens to your discarded electronic devices?

Next, listen to “Environmentalists Teach Dos and Don’ts of E-Waste” at <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=17988109>.

While listening to the interview, write down the answers to the following questions:

- What happens to the electronic waste produced by the United States?
- What happens to e-waste after it arrives in developing countries?
- Why does so much e-waste get shipped to Asia?
- What are the negative effects of dumping e-waste?
- How do the toxins in e-waste return to the United States?

- What can concerned citizens do about e-waste?

Write a letter to the editor about the issue of e-waste. Use the letters in the opinion section of the *Tampa Bay Times* and at tampabay.com/opinion/letters as models.

Adapted from: “E-Waste: The Digital Dark Side,” KQED education network

Florida Standards: Language Arts: ELA.412.C.1.2; ELA.412.C.1.3; ELA.412.C.1.4; ELA.412.C.1.5; ELA.412.C.3.1; ELA.412.C.4.1; ELA.412.C.5.1; ELA.412.F.1.3; ELA.412.F.1.4; ELA.412.R.2.1; ELA.412.R.2.2; ELA.412.R.2.3; ELA.412.R.2.4
Science: SC.912.L.17.14; SC.912.L.17.16

Household Hazardous Waste



What is Household Hazardous Waste?

Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable or reactive ingredients are considered to be household hazardous waste (HHW). Products such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries and pesticides contain potentially hazardous ingredients that require special care when you dispose of them.

Improper disposal of HHW can pollute the environment and pose a threat to human health. HHW should never be poured down the drain, in the toilet, on the ground or into storm sewers, put in your household trash or put in your curbside recycling.

Safe storage of HHW

- Keep products out of reach of children and animals. Store all hazardous products on high shelves or in locked cabinets, away from food items.
- Make sure the lids and caps are tightly sealed and child-proof.
- Store corrosive, flammable and poisonous products separately.
- Keep products in their original containers, with the information on the labels clearly legible. Never put a household hazardous product in a food or beverage container.
- Keep products away from heat, sparks, flames or sources of ignition. This is especially important with flammable products and aerosol cans.



Transporting your HHW safely

- Keep chemicals capped and in their original containers with original labels.
- Don't mix chemicals, particularly unknown chemicals.
- Pack leaky containers in larger, sound containers.
- Place containers in sturdy boxes for transportation.
- Place papers between containers to prevent breakage.
- Place containers in the trunk or away from passengers.



Household Hazardous Waste Reuse Program

Proper disposal of Household Hazardous Waste is critical. Pasco County Solid Waste has a partnership with Habitat for Humanity and donates any household hazardous waste that is still in good condition and usable. This allows HHW that was previously bound for disposal to be used as originally intended. The partnership reduces the cost for disposal and allows for better material management.



In 2021, approximately 2,700 pounds of Household Hazardous Waste was diverted from disposal and donated to Habitat for Humanity for reuse.

Household Hazardous Waste collection centers

Pasco County manages and operates two collection centers for the safe handling, processing and disposal of Household Hazardous Waste. HHW brought to the centers by County residents is either recycled or sent out to a permitted hazardous waste management facility for treatment.

Electronic equipment accepted for recycling includes cellphones, computers, TVs, computer monitors, printers and fax machines. There is a \$5 per item charge for TVs, laptops, computer monitors and CPUs. TVs larger than 36 inches are \$10 each.

East Pasco Transfer Station

9626 Handcart Road, Dade City • 352-521-0500
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility

14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill • 727-861-3053
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Items ACCEPTED at Pasco County HHW Collection Centers include:

- Automotive fluids
- Electronics
- Household chemicals and cleaners
- Cooking oils
- Fluorescent lamps
- Gasoline
- Herbicides and pesticides
- Household and lead-acid batteries
- Paints, solvents and stains
- Propane tanks

Items NOT accepted at Pasco County HHW Collection Centers include:

- Acetylene gas cylinders
- Ammunition
- Biomedical waste
- Business waste
- Drums of any size
- Explosives
- Fireworks
- Medications
- Radioactive materials
- Sharps



Going beyond the text: Household Hazardous Waste

A hazardous material has at least one of these properties: toxic, corrosive, explosive, flammable or radioactive. Signal words are clues that a product contains hazardous ingredients. Signal words give an indication of the amount of risk the user accepts when using the product:

- DANGER or POISON means the product is extremely flammable, corrosive or highly toxic.
- WARNING means moderately toxic.
- CAUTION means slightly toxic.

Use the Home Hazardous Product Survey worksheet at nieonline.com/tbtimes/downloads/HomeHazardousProductSurvey to conduct an HHW audit of your home. Search through your home to find the products listed on the worksheet. Read the labels to determine if the product you have is potentially hazardous. If it is, count the number of containers you have and write it in the space after the product. Note in the following space if the product is stored safely (see “Safe storage of HHW” on Page 6).

Be careful when handling these products. Wash your hands thoroughly after you have handled any container that may be leaking and when you have finished the survey.

Using the data from your completed survey, draw a floor plan of your home, indicating what types of hazardous products are found in each area. What is the largest category of household hazardous products in your home? What is the smallest? In what part of the home were the greatest number of products with the signal words DANGER or POISON? Were all products stored safely? Write a paragraph describing your findings. Share what you have learned with your class.

Adapted from: “Home Hazardous Product Survey,” University of Missouri Extension

Florida Standards: Language

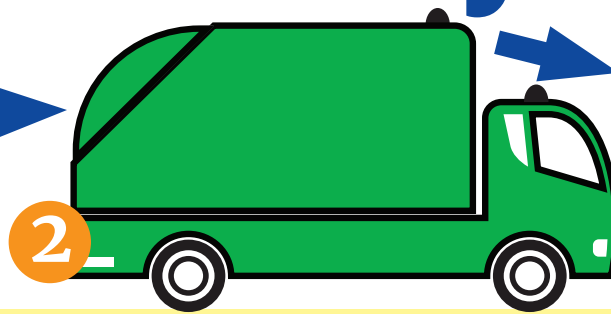
Arts: ELA.412.C.1.2; ELA.412.C.1.3; ELA.412.C.1.4; ELA.412.C.1.5; ELA.412.C.3.1; ELA.412.C.4.1; ELA.412.C.5.1; ELA.412.C.2.1; ELA.412.F.1.3; ELA.412.F.1.4; ELA.412.R.2.1; ELA.412.R.2.2; ELA.412.R.2.3; ELA.412.R.2.4

Science: SC.912.L.17.14; SC.912.L.17.16

Visual Arts: VA.412.S.1.3

What happens to your rec

Pasco county has eight different, licensed trash haulers who pick up both garbage and recycling. Call your trash hauler to find out your recycling pickup schedule.



Your recycling is brought by your trash hauler to a County facility in Spring Hill. This facility acts as a halfway point between Pasco County residents and a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).



The final and most important part of the recycling process is YOU! For recycling to work, products that use recycled materials need to find homes on our shelves, not only in our recycling bin.



The sorted recycled materials are then shipped locally and internationally to be remanufactured into new products.

The next step separates and collects aluminum using an Eddy Current Separator. This separator creates a magnetic field powerful enough to repel aluminum away from other recyclables.



The next step separates and collects magnetic items such as steel cans. The cross-belt magnet does this job by attracting all magnetic items while leaving other items on the belt to move onto the next sorting process.



Made with recycled content

Going beyond the text: The journey of a recyclable

Recycled materials can be used in place of raw materials in products from building materials, to toys, to clothes, to carpet. In addition to its environmental benefits, recycling plays an important part in the United States and world economies. The value of a particular recyclable depends on several factors, including quality and supply and demand.

Choose one of the materials that are recyclable in Pasco County. Use the Internet to research the journey of that recyclable from collection to processing to end use. Write down the answers to the following questions:

1. Who purchases this material after it is sorted and processed at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)?
2. What is the current value of this material?
3. What happens to the material next? What form does it take, and where does it go?
4. What are the final end uses of the material?
5. Who are the buyers for the end product(s)? Are they consumers or manufacturers?

Using the information you have learned, write a newspaper article about the journey of your recyclable. Use the articles in the *Tampa Bay Times* as models for your article. Make sure you answer the basic journalism questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why and How.

Adapted from: "The Economics of Recycling," Action in the Classroom: An Introduction to Environmental Science for High School Students, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

Florida Standards: Language Arts: LAFS.412.L.1; LAFS.412.L.2; LAFS.412.L.3; LAFS.412.RI.1; LAFS.412.RI.2; LAFS.412.RI.3; LAFS.412.SL.1; LAFS.312.SL.2; LAFS.412.W.1.1; LAFS.412.W.2; LAFS.412.W.3; LAFS.412.W.4 **Science:** SC.412.L.17; SC.412.N.1; SC.412.N.4

Recycling?

After your recycling arrives at the MRF, the recycling load is looked over by a couple of employees to remove any large pieces of contamination.



Your recycling is then sent to a MRF to be sorted and prepared for remanufacturing. Pasco County's recycling is sent to a MRF in St. Petersburg.

4

5



The first step of sorting uses spinning rubber stars known as "rotary screen separators" that separate paper and cardboard from heavier plastics and metals. While the separators spin, the rubber catches the flat surface of paper and cardboard and lifts them to a different conveyor belt.

6



The next step separates and collects different plastics by using an optical eye sorter. This optical eye utilizes a laser to measure the density of plastics and uses a puff of air to sort certain plastics.

7

separates
plastic
food
trash
by
etc

belt
text



The East Pasco Transfer Station, part of the County's current integrated waste management system, has been expanded to accommodate Pasco County's growth for years to come. The transfer station was developed to provide a mechanism for transferring and transporting solid waste generated within the County. The existing transfer station will be refurbished to receive and transfer recyclables.



Pasco County Biosolids Facility
Did you know? Pasco County is committed to finding new ways to reduce, reuse and recycle materials. Pasco County's FloridaGreen Biosolids Facility, powered by the neighboring Waste-to-Energy plant, transforms leftovers from wastewater treatment into class AA fertilizer, keeping 23,000 tons of waste out of the landfill. This facility was created through a public-private partnership between Pasco County and biosolids management corporation Merrell Bros.

For more information about recycling, call 727-856-4539.

Benefits of recycling in Pasco County

In 2021, recycling in Pasco County did the equivalent of:

REMOVING
EMISSIONS FROM
4,565
PASSENGER
VEHICLES

CONSERVING
2,419,599
GALLONS
OF GASOLINE

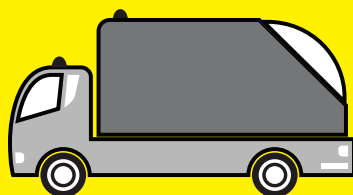
CONSERVING
895,957
CYLINDERS
OF PROPANE

Sources: Covanta, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Pasco County, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Waste-to-Energy:

In Pasco County, trash = electricity

1 Trash is collected from homes and businesses by third-party haulers and taken to the Pasco County Solid Waste Resource Recovery Facility.



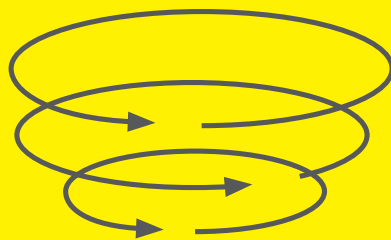
2 Trash is combusted to produce energy, which is sold to Duke Energy. Gases produced by combustion are processed, filtered and cleaned before being safely released into the atmosphere.

3 Reclaimed water from the County's wastewater treatment plant is used in the Waste-to-Energy facility's cooling tower.

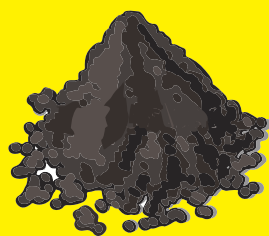


4 Magnets are used to recover ferrous metals, such as iron and steel, from the ash.

5 Electrical currents called eddy currents are used to recover nonferrous metals such as aluminum and copper. These metals are then sold for recycling.



6 The leftover ash, which takes up 85 percent less space than the original trash, is landfilled or used in roadbeds.



The WTE will undergo improvements to better handle Pasco's growing population.

Landfilling vs. Waste-to-Energy

Landfill	Waste-to-Energy
Landfill waste can take 100 years or more to fully degrade.	Garbage is processed into energy in a matter of hours.
Landfills recover no discarded metals.	In 2020, Pasco's WTE facility recovered enough metal to make 9,000 cars, 83 million aluminum cans or a paper clip chain long enough to encircle the Earth 16 times.
Methane emitted by landfills is the second-largest contributor to global climate change.	One ton of waste processed in a WTE facility avoids a ton of CO2 equivalent emissions.
Landfills accounted for 15 percent of all methane emissions in 2019.	Pasco's WTE facility operates at up to 99 percent below federal emissions standards.

1,050 TONS OF TRASH are combusted in Pasco County each day to produce energy.

10,500 TONS OF FERROUS METALS ARE RECOVERED ANNUALLY, ENOUGH TO BUILD **9,000 CARS.**

1,200 TONS OF NON-FERROUS METALS ARE RECOVERED ANNUALLY. Manufacturing products from recycled aluminum saves up to 95 percent of the energy needed to manufacture them from new materials.

Pasco County's WTE facility generates **31 megawatts of energy per year**, enough to power 22,000 homes.



Items accepted at County facilities

Solid waste items

Up to 8 bags of trash per day	No charge
Furniture	\$78.47 per ton (\$3.92 for every 100 pounds)
Construction debris	\$78.47 per ton (\$3.92 for every 100 pounds)
Yard waste	\$78.47 per ton (\$3.92 for every 100 pounds)
Mixed loads	\$78.47 per ton (\$3.92 for every 100 pounds)
Tires (car/pickup)	\$2 per tire
Tires (truck/semi)	\$10 per tire
All other tires and loads over 10 tires (West only)	\$200 per ton
Refrigerators	\$3 each
Air conditioners	\$3 each
Metal	No charge (unless in a mixed load)

In 2020, MORE THAN 40,000 truckloads of trash

were diverted from the landfill and instead combusted to generate electricity.

If placed end-to-end, these trucks would form a traffic jam 163 miles long – long enough to reach from

Pasco's WTE facility all the way to Daytona Beach!



Self hauling

Pasco County residents who do not purchase curbside trash service can bring items to the West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility or the East Pasco Transfer Station. Proof of Pasco County residency is required.

Please secure loads to help keep our roads clean. Tarps are an easy way to prevent unintentional litter.

Please note that the East Pasco Transfer Station is for residential use only and does not accept commercial loads.

For more information, call 727-857-2780.

West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility

14606 Hays Road
Spring Hill
727-861-3053
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

East Pasco Transfer Station

9626 Handcart Road
Dade City
352-521-0500
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Medication disposal



It's a new year, and people commonly start off with resolutions to live a healthier lifestyle. That can be anything from going in for a routine check-up, starting a vitamin regime, or getting a jump start on spring cleaning of your medicine cabinets. Have you given any thought to how to properly dispose of that unwanted, unused or expired medication?

Growing concern over substance abuse and

environmental impacts has spurred initiatives to more safely and securely manage household-generated pharmaceutical waste.

In cities and towns where residences are connected to wastewater treatment plants, prescription and over-the-counter drugs poured down the sink or flushed down the toilet can pass through the treatment system and enter rivers and lakes. They may

flow downstream to serve as sources for community drinking water supplies. Water treatment plants are generally not equipped to routinely remove medicines.

In homes that use septic tanks, prescription and over-the-counter drugs flushed down the toilet can leach into the ground and seep into ground water.

Medication disposal DOs and DON'Ts

DON'T

- Give medications to another person.
- Flush expired or unwanted medications down the toilet or drain.
- Throw away medications without disguising them from humans and animals.

DO

- Visit a Pasco County medication take-back location for proper disposal. Many retail pharmacies also offer drug take-back collection via drop-off boxes inside.
- Participate in the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day.
- Follow the guidelines below if you must dispose of medications in the trash.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is April 30

takebackday.dea.gov

Each year, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) hosts a National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. This is an annual event that provides participants with an opportunity to clean out their medicine cabinets and take unused or unwanted drugs to a temporary collection site for safe disposal. Year-round drug disposal is also available at some medical facilities and pharmacies. Visit takebackday.dea.gov for more information and to find year-round collection sites near you.



Pasco County Sheriff's Office medication take-back locations

Pasco County law enforcement agencies offer five take-back locations across the county.

Pasco County Sheriff's Office West Operations Center

7432 Little Road, New Port Richey

Pasco County Sheriff's Office

36409 S.R. 52, Dade City

Pasco County Sheriff's Office

11530 Trinity Blvd., Trinity

New Port Richey Police Department (24/7)

6739 Adams St., New Port Richey

Dade City Police Department (24/7)

38042 Pasco Ave., Dade City

Pasco Detention Facility (24/7)

20101 Central Blvd., Land O'Lakes



Put medications in the trash the right way

If none of the disposal options above are available to you, follow these steps to safely dispose of unwanted, unused or expired medications. Never put medications in the trash without disguising them.

1. Place medicine in a dark container, such as a coffee can or empty laundry bottle.
2. Add water or soda to pills to start dissolving them. If the drug is a liquid, add dirt or cat litter to discourage misuse or unintentional use of the medication if it's found and opened.
3. Secure the lid tightly and seal it with duct or packing tape.
4. Place the sealed container in the trash.

Sharps Exchange Program

The Pasco County Sharps Exchange Program provides residents with a way to safely dispose of their needles, syringes, tubes and lancets for no charge while also receiving a new sharps container for free.

Improper disposal of sharps can lead to them entering the sanitary sewer, waterways, our environment or solid waste stream, which endangers the safety and health of our citizens and sanitation workers.



How does the program work?

- Visit one of the six sponsoring facilities to obtain a red sharps container.
- Take the new container to your home and place it out of reach of children.
- Perform your injections as needed and then dispose of the syringes completely intact into the sharps container.
- When full, seal the container and exchange it at a participating location.

If you do not have a red sharps container, using a two-liter soda bottle is acceptable. Be sure to replace the cap on the bottle when it is full.

Sharps are not accepted at any of the Pasco County Health Department locations or any Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers.



Going beyond the text: Medication take-back programs

Medication take-back programs are a safe way to remove expired, unwanted or unused medicines from the home, reducing the chance of medication misuse and harm to the environment.

Research information about drug take-back resources in Pasco County. Working in small teams, create a public service announcement (PSA) informing people about medication take-back programs and explaining why and how to safely and securely dispose of unwanted medication. You can create a video, image, radio announcement or infographic. Your PSA should include a call to action for what the public should do, or not do, as a result of this knowledge. You can use the PSAs at dea.gov/takebackday as examples. Present your PSA to your class.

Florida Standards: Science: SC.912.L.17.14; SC.912.L.17.16 **Social Studies:** SS.412.A.1.1; SS.412.A.4.4; SS.412.E.1.3 **Language Arts:** ELA.412.C.1.2; ELA.412.C.1.3; ELA.412.C.1.4; ELA.412.C.1.5; ELA.412.C.3.1; ELA.412.C.4.1; ELA.412.C.5.1; ELA.412.C.2.1; ELA.412.F.1.3; ELA.412.F.1.4; ELA.412.R.2.1; ELA.412.R.2.2; ELA.412.R.2.3; ELA.412.R.2.4

Sharps Exchange Program locations:

Advent Health Dade City Main Entrance Information Desk

8 a.m. to 8 pm M-F

13100 Fort King Road, Dade City

Advent Health Zephyrhills Outpatient Information Desk

6 am to 4:30 p.m. M-F

7050 Gall Blvd., Zephyrhills

Morton Plant North Bay Medical Arts Building / Outreach Laboratory, Suite 100A

5 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. M-F

6600 Madison St., New Port Richey

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point Emergency Room

24/7

14100 Fivay Road, Hudson

Suncoast Eye Center Surgery Center (back of building)

7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. M-Th

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. F

14003 Lakeshore Blvd., Hudson

Trinity Medical Center Emergency Room

24/7

9330 S.R. 54, Trinity

For more information about medication disposal or sharps exchange, call Pasco County Solid Waste, Environmental Compliance at 727-847-2411, ext. 2045.

Pasco County Residential Cooking il Recycling Effort (CORE)



helps reduce the county's pump station and sewer maintenance costs.

The used cooking oils are recycled and processed for use in products such as poultry feed, soap, biofuel and fertilizer. Newer uses include lubrication for construction pilings or as an environmentally friendly substitute for petroleum. Your used cooking oil is a commodity in demand!

C.O.R.E. tips

- Never pour grease down the sink.
- Before washing pots and dishes, scrape food waste into the trash.
- Minimize use of your garbage disposal. Remember, it is not a trash can. A lot of small pieces of food can clog pipes.
- Use sink strainers and clean them often.
- Pour cooled oils and fats into a container and bring them to a C.O.R.E. location.

C.O.R.E. drop-off locations

Pasco County residents are encouraged to recycle all used cooking oils and fats, including bacon grease. Liquids and semi-solids are accepted at the drop-off locations. Every ounce recycled is one less down the drain!

East Pasco Transfer Station

9526 Handcart Road, Dade City

Pasco County Facilities

7220 Osteen Road,
New Port Richey

West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility

14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill

Zephyrhills Maintenance Yard

39421 South Ave., Zephyrhills

Pasco County has
**12 C.O.R.E.
DROP-OFF
LOCATIONS**

**IN 2021,
PASCO COUNTY
COLLECTED
NEARLY 3,000 GALLONS
OF USED COOKING OIL**

For more information about C.O.R.E.,
call Pasco County Solid Waste,
Environmental Compliance at
727-847-2411, ext. 2046.

Going beyond the text: Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)

When things that shouldn't be are flushed down the toilet or dumped down drains, they can form fatbergs: large lumps of fat, oil and grease that combine with other insoluble items in the sewer, such as wipes and paper towels.

Create a KWL chart by taking a piece of paper and making three columns, labeled K, W and L.

K-W-L charts, which track what a student knows (K), wants to know (W), and has learned (L) about a topic, can be used before, during and after research projects.

In the first column, write what you already know (K) about how fats, oils and grease and items such as wipes, cotton balls and cat litter impact home plumbing and Pasco County sewer lines.

In the second column, write what you want to know about the topic (W).

Read the *Tampa Bay Times* article "Pipe-busting waste called 'fatbergs' are growing in Tampa during the pandemic" at <https://www.tampabay.com/news/tampa/2020/04/27/pipe-busting-waste-called-fatbergs-are-growing-in-tampa-during-the-pandemic/>.

Next, watch the video "Sustainable Science at Home - Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)" at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3582495231786004>.

After reading the article and watching the video, write what you have learned in the third column (L). Did you answer all the questions you wrote down in the W column? As a class, discuss what you learned and what questions you still have.

Florida Standards: Language

Arts: ELA.412.C.1.2; ELA.412.C.1.3; ELA.412.C.1.4; ELA.412.C.1.5; ELA.412.C.3.1; ELA.412.C.4.1; ELA.412.C.5.1; ELA.412.C.2.1; ELA.412.F.1.3; ELA.412.F.1.4; ELA.412.R.2.1; ELA.412.R.2.2; ELA.412.R.2.3; ELA.412.R.2.4; ELA.412.V.1.1 **Science:** SC.912.L.17.14; SC.912.L.17.16

Think before you flush

The Pasco County Sanitary Sewer Collection System is a network of sewer lines, manholes, and pumping stations. Many sewer line clogs are caused by residents flushing wipes, trash, hygiene products and other solids down the toilet. Hygiene and baby wipes do not dissolve like toilet paper when flushed, and are one of the leading causes of problems in the wastewater collection system.

Most clogs can be avoided. They not only have potential health risks, but also cost money for added maintenance and repairs to sewer lines and pump stations. Somebody must pay, so protect your home and be kind to our sewers. Help avoid backups by putting items such as wipes, feminine hygiene products, family planning products, cotton balls and swabs, and cat litter in the trash.

Think before you flush and protect your home and family from sewer backups. Your sink and toilet aren't garbage cans. Just because you can flush it, doesn't mean you should.



Never flush

- Baby, personal care or cleaning wipes (including the "flushable" kind!)
- Paper towels or cloth rags
- Cloth or disposable diapers
- Feminine hygiene products
- Cotton balls, swabs or Q-tips
- Dental floss
- Family planning products
- Coffee grounds
- Cat litter
- Contact lenses
- Prescription or over-the-counter medication
- Syringes or sharps

Pet waste

No one wants to pick up after their pet, but why is it so important? It's more than the unpleasant inconvenience of stepping in poop. Pet waste can contaminate our waters, affecting the health of people and animals.

Pet waste contains pollutants harmful to our waters. Nutrients and pathogens found in pet waste include bacteria, viruses and parasites. When it rains, the pollutants in the waste flow to surrounding bodies of water. While decomposing, the nutrients can cause algae blooms, decreasing the oxygen available to fishes and other aquatic species, potentially leading to their death. The pathogens also can sicken pets and humans, producing symptoms such as intestinal problems, nausea, rashes, infections and even death.

The good news is that these problems are easily preventable! If you have a pet, bag their waste and toss it in the trash.



About Pasco County Recycling

Pasco County Recycling is committed to reducing the waste stream through recycling and reuse, encouraging environmental stewardship, and providing information and presentations to educate citizens about recycling and the benefits of waste reduction.

Pasco County Recycling offers educational presentations to groups such as civic associations, homeowners associations and youth groups on topics including waste reduction and recycling.

For more information, call 727-856-4539 or email recycling@MyPasco.net



About NIE

The Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program (NIE) is a cooperative effort between schools and the Times Publishing Co. to encourage the use of newspapers in print and electronic form as educational resources — a “living textbook.”

Our educational resources fall into the category of informational text, a type of nonfiction text. The primary purpose of informational text is to convey information about the natural or social world.

NIE serves educators, students and families by providing schools with class sets of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Tampa Bay Times* plus award-winning original educational publications, teacher guides, lesson plans, educator workshops and many more resources — all at no cost to schools, teachers or families.

In 2019-2020, NIE provided more than 1.1 million print copies and 10 million digital editions of the *Times* to area classrooms.

For more information about NIE, visit tampabay.com/nie, call 727-893-8138 or email ordernie@tampabay.com. Follow us



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Florida Standards

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

Language Arts: ELA.412.C.1.2; ELA.412.C.1.3; ELA.412.C.1.4; ELA.412.C.1.5; ELA.412.C.3.1; ELA.412.C.4.1; ELA.412.C.5.1; ELA.412.C.2.1; ELA.412.F.1.3; ELA.412.F.1.4; ELA.412.R.2.1; ELA.412.R.2.2; ELA.412.R.2.3; ELA.412.R.2.4; ELA.412.V.1.1 **Social Studies:** SS.412.A.1.1; SS.412.A.4.4; SS.412.E.1.3 **Science:** SC.912.L.17.14; SC.912.L.17.16 **Visual Arts:** VA.412.C.1.2; VA.412.S.1.2; VA.412.S.1.3

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