

Houston Zoo How to Recycle Guide

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Houston Zoo Recycling Guide

Wondering what you can recycle at work? This guide tells you **what** you can recycle, **where**, and **how!**

This is an evolving document, be sure that you have the most recent version as processes may change.

Mixed Recycling Bin:(also known as Single-Stream)

-Plastic:

- Plastics #1-5 and #7 can be placed in the blue 8-yard dumpster in the gravel lot, behind the Children's Zoo coastal building.
- Please empty any liquids from bottles before you put them in the bin.
- Please do not put plastic bags or plastic film into the bin. *The only plastic bags that should be in these bins are the bags that are holding recycling items, such as the bags that grounds/housekeeping uses. *

-Aluminum, steel, and tin cans:

- Aluminum, steel, and tin cans, such as soda cans or soup containers, are also placed in the blue 8-yard dumpster in the gravel lot, behind the Children's Zoo coastal building.

- Please empty any liquids before putting them in the bin.
- No aerosol cans

-JUST Water Cartons:

- These go in the blue 8-yard dumpster in the gravel lot, behind the Children's Zoo coastal building, along with the plastics and cans mentioned above.

Glass:

- You may bring glass from home to recycle. Place it in the open top 20-yard bin in the gravel lot, (you will know it is the correct bin because there is a sign in front that says, 'Glass Only').
- Place ONLY GLASS in the bin. **Whatever you carried the glass in cannot go in this dumpster.*

Cardboard and Paper:

- Cardboard, paperboard (things like cereal boxes), and paper go in the cardboard compactor. Please place only cardboard and paper items in the compactor.
- If the compactor is full, radio a Grounds Supervisor.
- Do not place wet or greasy cardboard in the compactor.

NEW: Plastic Twine:

- Please bring the plastic twine from hay bales back to the hay barn between the hours of 7:00am-1:00pm.
- ***Please Note that this program is in a Pilot Phase. If you have any comments or suggestions please email Mary Kate ***

NEW: Plastic Bags:

- Place any clean, dry plastic bags in the large cardboard box in the Facilities Bay by the employee smoking area (look for the “Plastic Bags Only” sign)
- OR in the blue 96 gal. rolling container by the hoofed stock/primate keeper trailer (the bin is labeled “Plastic Bags Only”).
- Examples of acceptable plastic bags: any plastic bags from Animal Nutrition, bread bags, shipping pillows.
- ***Please do not bring plastic bags from home to recycle. If you have plastic bags at home, you can recycle them at your grocery store. ***
- ***Please Note that this program is in a Pilot Phase. If you have any comments or suggestions please email Mary Kate ***

NEW: Plastic Grain Bags:

- The Mazuri (or like branded) grain bags that are made of a plastic material can be placed in the blue 96 gal. rolling container by the hoofed stock/primate keeper trailer (the bin is labeled “Plastic Grain Bags Only”)

- OR in the large cardboard box in the Facilities bay by the employee smoking area (look for the “Plastic Grain Bags Only” sign).
- ***Please Note that this program is in a Pilot Phase. If you have any comments or suggestions please email Mary Kate ***

Scrap Metal:

- Scrap metal is placed in the rectangular area across from the mechanic shop. Contact a Facilities Supervisor for assistance.

Batteries:

- Battery recycling is located next to the employee smoking area. It is a large, lidded bin. Inside the bin are buckets labeled with the type of battery that goes in that bucket.
- Please separate reusable batteries and alkaline batteries.
- If you have a button battery – the small, flat, round batteries – please place a piece of tape on both sides.
- If you have the rectangular batteries with two transmitters on top, please place a piece of tape over the top. These batteries are usually 6 and 9 volts.
- The Zoo recycles:
 - Alkaline
 - Nickel Cadmium – NiCd

- Lithium Ion – Li-Ion
- Nickel Metal Hydride – NiMH

Printer Ink:

- Keep the original boxes the cartridges come in, as well as the shipping label inside.
- Simply return the used cartridge in the box and apply the shipping label appropriately.
- Note the post company used: UPS for HP and USPS for Brother
- HP – shipped via UPS, drop off at the Purchasing Warehouse, between 7am – 3pm, at the package drop-off door.
- Brother Brand – shipped via USPS, drop off at the North Admin mailbox.

*If you have a brand of cartridge other than HP or Brother, please contact Mary Kate Kunzinger at extension 6620 or at mkunzinger@houstonzoo.org.

Light Bulbs:

- If you have a light bulb contact an electrician on the Facilities radio channel.

Cell Phones and Small Electronics:

- Place cell phones and small electronics in the cell phone recycling bin outside of guest relations.
- Items accepted are:
 - Cell phones
 - iPods and other MP3 players
 - iPads and other tablets
 - Wi-Fi hotspots
 - Handheld gaming devices
 - GPS
 - Electronic accessories such as chargers, blue tooth headsets, etc.
 - Please note, digital cameras are no longer accepted

Large Electronics:

- Contact Mary Kate Kunzinger at extension 6620 or at mkunzinger@houstonzoo.org.

Seasonal Recycling Programs:

Holiday Lights: Holiday lights are accepted during Zoo Lights only. Before the start of Zoo Lights, instructions for recycling holiday lights will be posted on the Watering Hole.

When in Doubt, Throw it Out. Or email Mary Kate.

This goes against what many of us believe, but anything that is not recyclable in the recycling bins is considered contamination. If there is too much contamination in a load of recycling, the whole load goes to a landfill.

If you have any questions, contact Mary Kate Kunzinger at extension 6620 or at mkunzinger@houstonzoo.org.