

Recycling options in Silver City and Grant County

WHY Remember the three R's: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. The best way to help the environment is to REDUCE the amount of waste you produce, buy less junk and shop smart for products with less packaging and that will last longer. Instead of throwing things away, try to find ways to REUSE them! If you can't reduce or reuse then please RECYCLE. Each of these "three R's" has many benefits for the environment. It saves landfill space, energy, water, trees, oil, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Silver City has "pay-as-you-throw" trash service so recycling can reduce the amount of trash you have and you can switch to a smaller, cheaper trash container. ***Ultimately, higher recycling rates save us all a lot of money by reducing the need for constructing, operating, closing, and monitoring new landfill cells. Construction and permitting costs for new landfill cells alone are upwards of \$250,000.00 per year as of 2010, and operating, closure and 30-year (minimum) mandatory monitoring costs far exceed that.***

HOW Recycling services are provided by Southwest Solid Waste Authority (SWSWA) which also operates the landfill and garbage transfer stations in Grant County. SWSWA is a special district of the State of New Mexico providing municipal solid waste disposal and recycling services throughout Grant and Hidalgo counties. SWSWA is Trucks from SWSWA pickup recycling bins from residents of Silver City at the curbside on the same day their trash is picked up by the city. For questions or problems with recycling services or to receive a free bin for curbside pickup please call SWSWA at 388-8051. SWSWA also picks up recyclables from businesses in the community. For questions or problems with your trash pickup call Silver City Public Works at 388-4640.

WHERE Silver City residents have free curbside recycling. Anyone can also recycle at the recycling convenience center at the landfill, 318 Ridge Road; the recycling convenience center bins are located just before you get to the scales. Another option for getting recyclables to SWSWA is to place your recyclables (excluding glass) in one of the roll-off recycling bins scattered around Grant county. They are located at the Grant County Administration Building, Pinos Altos (behind the Buckhorn), Tyrone, Bayard (at the maintenance yard), and the transfer stations at the Tri-City, Cliff-Gila, and Mimbres. **Please do not leave glass or trash at the roll-off recycling bins.** Most of these bins are brightly decorated by kids from local schools.

WHAT *The Southwest Solid Waste Authority is now sending mixed recyclables, excluding glass, to Friedman Recycling in El Paso (glass is recycled at the landfill). Friedman's facility is largely automated, and is extremely efficient. The huge volumes of material that Friedman processes allows for sale of recyclables into more and better markets than was previously possible when SWSWA separated and processed the recyclables themselves. This approach is providing significant time and cost savings, as well as making it easier for citizens to recycle more of their waste stream.* The following list explains what can be recycled by SWSWA.

PAPER

- Cardboard (flattened, non-greasy)
- Newspaper and magazines
- Brown paper bags
- White, colored and computer paper
- Junk mail and envelopes
- Paperboard (cereal, pasta, multi-pack beverage cartons)
- Phone books and catalogs
- Both paperback and hardback books

Office Paper

Office paper is recyclable and can be placed at curbside. It is one of the highest grades of paper available. Included in this category are letterhead, laser printer paper, copier paper, and notebook paper, among others. Staples do not need to be removed as they are removed during the recycling process.

Americans discard 4 million tons of office paper every year. That's enough to build a 12 foot-high wall of paper from New York to California.

Newspapers

Newspapers are recyclable and can be placed at curbside. The entire newspaper (including inserts) is recyclable except for items such as product samples and rubber bands. Newspaper has been recycled profitably for decades. Newspaper is widely available and of uniform consistency which makes it valuable. Recycled newspaper can be used for making newsprint and corrugated or folding boxes.

Recycling one stack of newspapers about 6 feet tall saves the life of one tree 35 feet tall.

Magazines

Magazines are recyclable and can be placed in your curbside bin. There are many other ways to recycle a magazine, also. Use colorful pages for decorative wrap, origami, book covers, etc., or donate to your physician or dentist's waiting room.

Phone books

Phone books can be recycled at curbside. Simply place them in the recycling container on the day of collection.

Corrugated Cardboard

Corrugated cardboard is recyclable and can be placed at curbside. It should be flattened and placed underneath your curbside container so that it does not blow away. Contaminated cardboard, like greasy pizza boxes, is not acceptable. Staples are allowed, but it is important to remove any packing tape still attached and packaging material like Styrofoam.

Junk Mail

Many types of junk mail are recyclable at curbside. Just be sure to screen it for non-recyclable items like magnets and plastic membership cards.

Mixed-Paper

Mixed-paper is recyclable and can be placed at curbside. The term mixed-paper refers to types of paper not previously mentioned. Everything you can imagine, including door hangers, packaging materials, sticky notes, windowed envelopes, and more is acceptable at Friedman's recycling plant. The paper must be clean, dry, and free of food, plastic, wax, and other contamination. Most junk mail can be recycled as mixed-paper as well when you remove plastic wrap, stickers, product samples, and membership cards.

METALS

Metal containers, clean foil, and clean pots and pans – this includes all beverage and food cans

- Aluminum cans
- Steel, tin and bimetallic cans
- Clean aluminum foil and baking pans
- Metal cookware (pots, pans, and non-sharp metal utensils)

Aluminum

It is not necessary to remove labels for recycling. Just rinse aluminum containers to prevent odors.

In 1997, the aluminum industry recycled 3.7 million metric tons of aluminum and 1.5 million metric tons of old scrap that resulted from consumer products. Because the value of aluminum is so high, aluminum recycling is a very cost-effective alternative to disposal.

One recycled aluminum can saves enough electricity to operate a TV for 3 hours.

Steel

There is a special area for large metal items and appliances at the landfill, but small metal items (cans, pots, pans, **non-sharp** utensils, and other metal household items) can now be placed in the single stream bins and rolloff containers.

More steel is recycled each year than all other materials combined. Steel's magnetic quality makes it one of the easiest materials to retrieve from construction debris, demolished buildings, junked automobiles, and old appliances. Besides saving landfill space, recycling steel saves valuable energy and natural resources. Every ton of steel recycled conserves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal, and 120 pounds of limestone.

Americans throw away enough steel every year to build all the new cars made in America.

PLASTICS

In April 2011, Friedman Recycling began accepting #1 through #5 and #7 plastics. Primarily what they won't accept are some of the plastic foam products (e.g. Styrofoam, foam insulation), and plastic sheeting products. Virtually all plastic containers are made from #1-#5 plastics, but you can check to see if a #1 through #5 or #7 is embossed inside a triangle on the plastic (typically on the bottom of the container). Additionally, Friedman will now accept polyethylene shopping bags as part of the recycling stream.

Plastic Identification Code	Type of plastic polymer	Properties	Common Packaging Applications
	Polyethylene terephthalate (PET, PETE)	Clarity, strength, toughness, barrier to gas and moisture.	Soft drink, water and salad dressing bottles; peanut butter and jam jars
	High-density polyethylene (HDPE)	Stiffness, strength, toughness, resistance to moisture, permeability to gas.	Water pipes, hula hoop rings, five gallon buckets , milk, juice and water bottles; the occasional shampoo / toiletry bottle
	Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)	Versatility, ease of blending, strength, toughness.	Blister packaging for non-food items; cling films for non-food use. Not used for food packaging as the plasticisers needed to make natively rigid PVC flexible are usually toxic. Non-packaging uses are electrical cable insulation; rigid piping; vinyl records.
	Low-density polyethylene (LDPE)	Ease of processing, strength, toughness, flexibility, ease of sealing, barrier to moisture.	Frozen food bags; squeezable bottles, e.g. honey, mustard; cling films; flexible container lids.
	Polypropylene (PP)	Strength, toughness, resistance to heat, chemicals, grease and oil, versatile, barrier to moisture.	Reusable microwaveable ware; kitchenware; yogurt containers; margarine tubs; microwaveable disposable take-away containers; disposable cups; plates.

 <p>PS</p>	<p>Not recyclable through single stream</p> <p><u>Polystyrene</u>(PS)</p>	<p>Versatility, clarity, easily formed</p>	<p>Egg cartons; packing peanuts; disposable cups, plates, trays and cutlery; disposable take-away containers;</p>
	<p>Other (often <u>polycarbonate</u> or <u>ABS</u>)</p>	<p>Dependent on polymers or combination of polymers</p>	<p>Beverage bottles; baby milk bottles. Non-packaging uses for polycarbonate: compact discs; "unbreakable" glazing; electronic apparatus housings; lenses including sunglasses, prescription glasses, automotive headlamps, riot shields, instrument panels;^[27]</p>

Containers should be rinsed and caps should be removed from the containers to allow greater compaction. Visit Wikipedia online for more detailed identification information: (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resin_identification_code)

Five recycled two-liter bottles makes enough fiberfill for one ski jacket. Plastic production uses 8% of the world's oil output. It takes 1,050 recycled milk jugs to make a 6-foot plastic park bench.

SMALL ELECTRONICS

In April 2011, Friedman Recycling began accepting small electronic items as part of our single stream shipments. The items that they will accept are:

- PC's and laptops
- Cell phones and iPods
- Computer games
- VCR and DVD players
- Keyboards and mice
- Radios/stereo equipment

What they will not accept is:

- TV's or computer monitors
- Microwave ovens
- Kitchen appliances
- Fluorescent lamp ballasts

GLASS

All glass bottles can be recycled; they are crushed at the landfill and used for side-slope stabilization on the landfill cells, saving significant amounts of cover soil. They must be **bagged or kept in a separate container outside of your curbside recycling bin**, as they are separated from the rest of the mixed recyclables in the collection truck and not sent to the Friedman Recycling facility in El Paso. Please remove the lids/caps and rinse them out if there are any residues in side. The caps can cause problems with the crusher, and residues can attract bees, insects, and rodents.

THINGS THAT CAN NOT BE RECYCLED THROUGH SWSWA SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING

Non-recyclable Paper

Paper that cannot be recycled as "mixed paper" in the single stream process includes:

- food-contaminated paper
- waxed paper
- oil-soaked paper
- carbon paper
- sanitary products or tissues
- thermal fax paper
- stickers or adhesive backed paper
- plastic-laminated paper such as fast food wrappers, aseptics, and pet food bags
- Paper with any sort of food contamination or plastic lamination also cannot be recycled.

Other Non-Recyclables

- Additionally the following items cannot be recycled in the single stream process:
Styrofoam (expanded polystyrene/#6 plastics)
- waxed cardboard
- egg cartons
- light bulbs (both incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs)
- plastic sheeting
- organic matter (food, yard waste, dead animals, etc.)
- medical waste/drug paraphernalia
- computer monitors and TV's
- microwave ovens
- batteries (see below)
- garden hoses
- sharp metal objects
- textiles or clothing

All of these have been found in the recycling stream - They are not recyclable, they waste the recycling crews' time in separating them, cause a variety of problems at Friedman's plant if they get through, and some pose health hazards to the recycling crews.

OTHER RECYCLING OPTIONS

General resources:

Freecycle

Silver City freecycle lets people "recycle" things they no longer want by giving it away. www.freecycle.org

GilaCommunityNet

Post things for sale or to give away. www.gilacommunity.net

- ReStore** Habitat for Humanity run store that accepts many items, particularly building materials and resells them. 538-9540
- Viva Verde** Viva Verde Guide 09 lists numerous local resources for recycling. Copies available from Gila Resources Information Project 538-8078. Also online at: www.vivaverdenm.com

Specific items:

- Appliances** Major appliances (refrigerators, ovens, washer, dryers, etc.) can be taken to the "white goods" area at the landfill for recycling. Working appliances can be donated to the ReStore. Smaller working appliances can be donated to resale stores like; Single Socks, Town and Country Thrift store, and White Elephant.
- Autos** Old cars as well as lots of other metals can be recycled at Recovery Time Recycling, 575-644-7451.
- Batteries** The landfill will accept most types of batteries in the household hazardous waste collection area; It is desirable to keep batteries out of the normal trash stream going into the landfill cells as they release toxic chemicals, but currently recycling options are very limited or non-existent for non-rechargeable batteries. So please deposit (alkaline) batteries at the household hazardous waste collection area rather than dumping them with your trash.
- Auto batteries can be recycled at most locations when you purchase a new battery. Checker Auto Parts will buy any old auto battery. Rechargeable batteries can be recycled at Radio Shack. Asher Gelbart (574-7119) has also been collecting batteries for use in a solar electric system.
- Cell Phones** As of April 2011 you can recycle this with your normal single stream recyclables, or donate to working cell phones El Refugio
- CFL's** The nearest recycling of Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs is at Home Depot in Las Cruces. Although CFL's have a small amount of mercury in them they can be put in the trash, just wrap them so they do not get broken and dispose of in household trash.
- Clothes** Resale stores like; Single Socks, Town and Country Thrift store, Gospel Mission, White Elephant.
- Electronics** As of April 2011 you can recycle small electronic items (laptops, PC's, cell phones, iPods, games) with your normal single stream recyclables. **Computer monitors and TV's however, are not currently recyclable through single stream.** Computers can also sometimes be recycled when you buy a new one from some retailers. Best Buy in Las Cruces will take old computers and give

you store credit. Additionally, the Town of Silver City's Recycling Advisory Committee usually holds a local e-waste collection event every Earth Day (April 22 or thereabouts), so hold on to your old computer for recycling rather than throwing it in the trash.

HHW

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) constitutes chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, and many types of toxic products found in homes. It is best to use as little of these as possible, only buy as much as you need and use it according to directions. The landfill has a separate area for HHW.

Motor Oil

Landfill (also antifreeze), AutoZone, O'Reilly Auto Parts

Paint

Latex or oil-based paints can be recycled at the landfill or the ReStore.

Plastic Bags

Polyethylene bags are now recyclable through single stream. Better yet use: your own reusable cloth bag for shopping, they are available for around \$1 at many stores.

Tires

The landfill bales and reuses old tires. Most tire dealers will trade your old tires for new ones.