

2021 Pasco Recycling

RECYCLING RIGHT



PASCO RECYCLING



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2021-2022

APRIL 2021

Earth Day at Crews Lake
Wilderness Park
April 24, 2021

SEPTEMBER 2021

Coastal Cleanup
September 18, 2021

NOVEMBER 2021

America Recycles Day
November 15, 2021

Upcycle Festival
November 13, 2021

DECEMBER 2021

Christmas Tree Recycling
December 26, 2021 – January TBD, 2022

MARCH 2022

Great American Cleanup
March 5, 2022

All dates subject to change. Call 727-856-4539 or visit pascocountyfl.net and pasco.k12.fl.us for updated information.

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT

When nonrecyclable or dirty materials are placed in your curbside recycling container, they can contaminate the entire load, meaning that none of the items in that load end up being recycled. If you're not sure if an item is recyclable or not, always discard it in the trash.



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 soiled,
dirty, or greasy
cardboard)

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. Residents should 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.



What NOT to recycle curbside in PASCO COUNTY?



NO Plastic Bags



NO Glass



NO Styrofoam



NO Milk or
Juice Cartons



NO "tanglers"
(hoses, wires, tarps)



NOTHING bigger
than a cat litter
container



NOTHING
wet or dirty

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 a sticker to put on your recycling container and for your recycling pickup schedule.

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 CENTERS

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.

Holiday Area Recycling Anclote Gulf Park

2305 Baillies Bluff Road, Holiday, Fla. 34691
Wednesday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

East Pasco Transfer Station

9626 Handcart Road, Dade City, Fla. 33525
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
352-521-0500
(also accepts used cooking oils and scrap metal)

Land O'Lakes Area Recycling Senior Services Center

6801 Wisteria Loop, Land O'Lakes, Fla. 34638
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
813-929-1200

West Pasco Recycling Center

14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill, Fla. 34610
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
727-861-3053
(also accepts used cooking oils and scrap metal)



GOING BEYOND *the Text*

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT

What to recycle and what not to recycle – that is the question. When nonrecyclable or dirty materials are placed in your curbside recycling container, they can contaminate the entire load, meaning that none of the items in that load end up being recycled.

Not only is that a waste of time, energy and money, but it also can be dangerous to the people working at the recycling plants. Look at all of the different items shown in the advertisements of the *Tampa Bay Times*. Using the information on the pages of this publication as a guide, classify the items you find in the newspapers as recyclable or not recyclable. Create a poster showing what can and cannot be recycled. Share what you have learned with your family and class.



Florida Standards
Language Arts: LAFS.412.RF.3; LAFS.412.RF.4; LAFS.412.RI.1; LAFS.412.RI.3;
LAFS.412.SL.1; LAFS.412.SL.2; LAFS.412.W.1; LAFS.412.W.2; LAFS.412.W.3;
LAFS.412.W.4 Science: SC.6-12.6; SC.412.L.17; SC.412.N.1 Visual Arts:
VA.412.S.1

PASCO COUNTY ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT RECYCLING PROGRAM

It is estimated that up to 75 percent of old electronics remain in homes because people don't know what to do with them.

So, what do you do with your end-of-life electronics?

Computers, cell phones and other electronic equipment contain both useful recyclable materials and elements that are hazardous, and must not be landfilled or incinerated.

Pasco County was the first county in the state of Florida and one of a handful of counties in the nation to implement an electronic equipment demanufacturing program, where electronics are disassembled into components for recycling.



Closing the recycling loop of computers and electronic equipment remains challenging because of the high cost of demanufacturing. Florida, like the rest of the country, lacks the demanufacturing infrastructure that can make the process economically rewarding. Revenues derived from selling materials recovered can only offset a very small portion of the costs associated with the equipment collection, transportation and demanufacturing.

For more information, call Pasco County Public Infrastructure, Environmental Compliance at 813-929-2755, ext. 2046.

Pasco County Schools cellphone recycling program

Pasco County schools receive funds for each phone that is collected regardless of its condition.

Recycled cellphones are sent to other countries, where they are reprogrammed and reused without creating any waste. Before the phones are shipped, all memory chips are erased, and nonworking phones are repaired or recycled with other electronic waste.

For more information about the school district's recycling programs, visit pasco.k12.fl.us/recycle or contact Chris Williamson at 727-794-2380.



Electronics Recycling Locations

Pasco County residents can drop off their unwanted electronic equipment for recycling at the East Pasco Transfer Station or the West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility.

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, Fla. 33525
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.
352-521-0500

West Pasco Resource Recovery Facility

14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill, Fla. 34610
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
727-861-3053



PASCO COUNTY

Fluorescent lamp recycling



Fluorescent tubes and compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) contain a small amount of mercury that is essential for the bulb to emit light. While mercury is effective in emitting white light, it is also highly toxic.

When one of these types of lamps breaks, mercury vapor is released that

can be inhaled or settle into carpets and other textiles. For this reason, they should never be placed in household trash or curbside recycling.

Instead, bring mercury-containing lamps to a recycling center to be disposed of safely. Pasco County accepts spent mercury lamps at its two Household

Hazardous Waste Collection Centers. Some retailers also may offer their residential customers fluorescent bulb recycling. Check with your local store.

For more information, call Pasco County Solid Waste, Environmental Compliance at 813-929-2755, ext. 2046.

In **2020**, Pasco County collected **14,392 POUNDS** of mercury-containing lamps for recycling at its Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers.

BRIGHT IDEAS:

8 Reasons to switch to LED lighting

1. LED bulbs last much longer than the alternatives.
2. They are significantly more durable.
3. They allow better control of lighting.
4. They save money on energy usage.
5. They reduce your carbon footprint.
6. They produce light, not heat and noise.
7. They are better for indoor paint, artwork and photographs.
8. They are reliable.



GOING BEYOND *the Text*

BEING A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

As Recycle Across America notes, "Every day, the public throws millions of tons of garbage (food waste, diapers, plastic bags, wrappers, Styrofoam™, coffee cups, plastic straws, garden hoses, etc.) into recycling bins. That 'garbage' contaminates the good recyclables, hence the term 'contamination.'" Think about the following questions:

- What is recycling?
- What is the science behind recycling?
- What items can be recycled in Pasco County?
- What items cannot be recycled and why?
- Why do people put nonrecyclable items into recycle bins?
- What are the dangers of contaminating recycle bins with inappropriate items?

Working in small groups, brainstorm the questions. Create a KNL chart listing what you know, what you need to know and what you hope to learn. Write down all your ideas before you begin the research.

Using the information you researched and discussed with your group, create a plan to improve people's knowledge about recycling and the way they recycle in Pasco County. Write out your plan in outline form and create a visual map to share with your class and family. In your plan, include how you will not only increase clean recycling, but also decrease contamination in recycling bins. Create an advertising campaign to go along with your plan. Look in the *Tampa Bay Times* for effective advertisements, images and slogans. Use the ideas and images on the Recycle Across America page for ideas, as well. Brand your campaign for Pasco County residents.

LED, incandescent and halogen bulbs can be placed in your household trash. These types of lamps are mercury free and contain no hazardous materials, and any metals are recovered from the incineration process.

Household Hazardous Waste



SAFER CHOICE

The Environmental Protection Agency's Safer Choice program helps consumers and businesses and purchasers find products that perform and contain ingredients that are safer for human health and the environment. Visit epa.gov/saferchoice for more information.

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 that contain potentially hazardous ingredients require special care when you dispose of them.

HHW should never be poured down the drain, in the toilet, on the ground, into storm sewers, or put in your household trash. The dangers of such disposal methods might not be immediately obvious, but improper disposal of these wastes can cause physical injury to sanitation workers, contaminate septic tanks or wastewater treatment systems, pollute

the environment and pose a threat to human health.

Pasco County became the first adopter in Florida of Smarter Sorting technology, which allows the ability to reuse household hazardous waste that was previously bound for disposal. Smarter Sorting reduces the cost for disposal and allows for better material management. Through a partnership with the local Habitat for Humanity, products in usable condition are reused within our community.

For more information, call Pasco County Solid Waste, Environmental Compliance at 813-929-2755, ext. 2046.



How to safely transport HHW

- 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.



How can I reduce my use of HHW?

- Read the labels for words such as: Warning, Caution and Danger.
- Follow all application guidelines.
- Choose safer alternatives or less toxic products.
- Buy only chemicals you need and in small quantities.
- Use all of the material that you can.

Where do I take my HHW?

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

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers

East Pasco Transfer Station
9626 Handcart Road, Dade City, Fla. 33525
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Resource Recovery Class III Landfill
14606 Hays Road, Spring Hill, Fla. 34610
Monday – Saturday, 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Leave the Leaves!

Did you know that fallen leaves can be really useful?

Instead of bagging up those leaves for trash, consider:

- **Leaves make great mulch!** Spread them around your garden beds to hold moisture, block the weeds and keep the soil cool. As the leaves break down, they'll improve your soil.
- **Many beneficial insects use a leafy bed to keep warm in the winter.** More leaves equals more ladybeetles (ladybugs), moths and butterflies.
- **Leaves make a great addition to your compost.** Add leaves to get a rich, dark, crumbly compost that's great for the soil.
- **Leaves can even help your lawn.** Just mulch them with the lawnmower to shred leaves and help return their nutrients to the soil.
- **Don't forget about pine needles.** A thick layer of pine needles makes excellent mulch.

So, don't send those leaves to the landfill. Whether you make a pile, add them to compost, use them for mulch or mow them in ... leave the leaves!



GOING BEYOND
the Text

DANGER UNDER
YOUR SINK

Many of the everyday products we use in our homes are potentially harmful to humans, wildlife and the environment, and improper disposal of these items can be dangerous and deadly. Read the information about Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) on these pages. To add to your knowledge, do a little research about HHW. Be sure to document the information you find. Now that you have all this knowledge, it is time to share what you know with everyone else in Pasco County through an information campaign in the *Tampa Bay Times*. Your campaign will include a full-page public service announcement, an editorial and a news article alerting people about the major points associated with HHW and how it should be properly disposed of. Use the advertisements, editorials and articles in the *Times* as examples. Share your campaign with your classmates and family.

Florida Standards

Language Arts: LAFS.412.RF.3; LAFS.412.RF.4; LAFS.412.RI.1; LAFS.412.RI.3; LAFS.412.SL.1; LAFS.412.SL.2; LAFS.412.W.1; LAFS.412.W.2; LAFS.412.W.3; LAFS.412.W.4

Science: SC.6-12.6; SC.412.L.17; SC.412.N.1 Visual Arts: VA.412.S.1

PASCO COUNTY RECYCLING ONLINE

[facebook.com/PascoCountySolidWasteAndRecycling](https://www.facebook.com/PascoCountySolidWasteAndRecycling)
recycling@pascocountyfl.net | 727-856-4539

Did you know that Pasco County has a new recycling Facebook page?

Just search for @PascoCountySolidWasteAndRecycling on Facebook and you'll be able to see great posts like those below, participate in recycling raffles and keep up with community events!



BEHIND THE SCENES OF RECYCLING

Part 3

WHAT IS A MRF?

A MRF (Pronounced "Murf") is a **Materials Recovery Facility**. Your recycling is sent to a MRF to be sorted and prepared for re-manufacturing. Pasco County's recycling is sent to a MRF in St. Petersburg.

RECYCLING FAQs

What about the labels on metal food cans?

There's no need to rip off those pesky can labels! **SAVE YOURSELF SOME TIME** and leave the paper labels on the can. But **PLEASE** give your cans a quick rinse and dry before recycling.

FAQS – In this series, we answer some of the most frequently asked questions we receive from residents.



Pasco R

The Big Shred

Privacy-conscious residents from around Pasco County responded in droves to Pasco Clerk & Comptroller Nichole "Nikki" Alvarez-Sowles' invitation to have their sensitive, outdated documents shredded for free in honor of Data Privacy Day, Jan. 28, 2021 at the annual Big Shred.

On consecutive Saturdays – Jan. 30 and Feb. 6 – at the courthouse in Dade City, respectively, more than 400 residents brought thousands of checks, tax returns and more to the event. All that paper became paper towels and toilet tissue – in the steely jaws of shredders sponsored by Covanta of Pasco County.

These events shredded a record 25,500 pounds of documents from Pasco County, saving Pasco residents a grand total of \$25,160 in shredding costs.

The Clerk & Comptroller's Office was assisted by the Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Pasco County Facilities, the Dade City Police Department, Pasco County Works and many other volunteers.

Your recycling department has been busy lately! They gave away flowers with Keep Pasco Beautiful during their recent Florida Recycling Month event.



GOING BEYOND the Text

In addition to its environmental benefits, recycling helps world economies. Recycling helps businesses and creates jobs at recycling facilities. Recycling also produces significant economic revenues, building more competitive manufacturing and green technology. The value of a particular recycled material and supply and demand. Use the Internet to research as far as possible from collection to processing to recycling.

1. Provide examples of who purchases this material?
2. What is the value of this material?

Florida Standards: Language Arts: LAFS.412.L.1; LAFS.412.L.2; LAFS.812.E.1; SS.812.E.2; SS.912.FL.2

Recycling in the community



uses in New Port Richey and
ds of bills, receipts, cancelled
recyclable confetti – destined
red360 Tampa trucks partly

om more than 500 cars and

nty Recycling Division, the
Police Department and Public

ve out free trees and
orida Arbor day event.



Florida Arbor Day 2020



5th Annual Pasco
Blues Festival



Coastal Cleanup 2020



Smart Phone
Pumpkin Hunt 2020



Trunk or Treat 2020



Stuff Your Stocking 2020

D THE VALUE OF RECYCLING

ing plays an important part in the United States and
nd communities reduce costs associated with disposal
conomic benefits by creating jobs, generating tax
turing industries and stimulating the development of
yclable depends on several factors, including quality
search one of the recyclable materials on Page 2 as
end use.

aterial.

3. What happens to the material next? What form does it take and where does it go?

4. What is the final end use of the material? Who is the buyer for the end product? Is it a consumer or a manufacturer?

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, where, when, 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



Battery RECYCLING



Removing batteries from the solid waste stream is critical to protect human health and the environment.

Batteries contain heavy metals and chemicals that can be released when landfilled or incinerated. Battery recycling containers are located across the county at schools, libraries, county facilities and participating communities.

For more information, call Pasco County Solid Waste, Environmental Compliance at 813-929-2755, ext. 2045.

Each year, Americans throw away:

more than
3 BILLION BATTERIES 

ABOUT 14,000 TONS of rechargeable batteries 

more than
86,000 TONS

OF SINGLE USE ALKALINE BATTERIES

In 2020 Pasco County residents collected:

MORE THAN 86,000 TONS OF SINGLE USE ALKALINE BATTERIES 

NEARLY 40,000 POUNDS of lead acid batteries 

30,000 POUNDS OF HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES



GOING BEYOND the Text

CARBON FOOTPRINT

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a carbon footprint is a measure of the impact your activities have on the amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) produced through the burning of fossil fuels and is expressed as a weight of CO2 emissions produced in tons. In other words, a carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases, which include carbon dioxide and methane, that are generated by our actions. You can calculate your carbon footprint using the United States Environmental Protection website, located at epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator. You can compare your footprint to your classmates'. Look for articles about the environment and carbon footprint in the archives of the *Tampa Bay Times*. Using the information you have learned, write a blog post including what you have learned about this topic.

Florida Standards
Language Arts: LAFS.412.RF.3; LAFS.412.RF.4; LAFS.412.RI.1; LAFS.412.RI.3; LAFS.412.SL.1; LAFS.412.SL.2; LAFS.412.W.1; LAFS.412.W.2; LAFS.412.W.3; LAFS.412.W.4 Science: SC.6-12.6; SC.412.L.17; SC.412.N.1; SC.912.E.7.1

EARTH DAY

Join Us For

- Lady bug release
- Croc encounters
- Children's crafts
- Visit the recycling booth to see what's new



Saturday, April 24
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Crews Lake Park off of Shady Hills Road

LIVE REMOTE with Hits 106 • 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Bring your mercury-containing thermostats and thermometers for a \$5 gift card
Bring your old electronics (*first 2 TVs Free, all others \$7 each*) and Household Hazardous Waste
Pill take-back program • Paper shredding - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

COVANTA

For information, call:
727-856-2917 ext. 201
KeepPascoBeautiful.org

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?

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. Growing concern over substance abuse and the environmental

impact to wastewater collection systems and waterways 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.



How to PROPERLY DISPOSE of medications:

DON'T:

- Give medications to another person or flush expired unwanted prescription and over-the-counter drugs down the toilet or drain.

DO:

- Participate in the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. Each year, the Drug Enforcement Administration hosts a National RX Take-Back Day. Visit takebackday.dea.gov for more information and to find year-round collection sites near you.
- Visit a participating collection center. Pasco County law enforcement agencies offer five take-back locations. Some retail pharmacies also offer drug-take back collection. Check with your local store.
- Follow the guidelines below if you must dispose of medications in the trash.



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 all 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 help discourage misuse or unintentional use of the medication if it's found and opened.
3. Secure the lid tightly and seal it with duct tape.
4. Place the sealed container with the mixture in the trash.

PASCO COUNTY



Medication take-back locations

Pasco Sheriff's Office West Operations Center

7432 Little Road, New Port Richey, Fla. 34654

Pasco Sheriff's Office

36409 State Road 52, Dade City, Fla. 33525

Pasco Sheriff's Office

11530 Trinity Blvd., Trinity, Fla. 34655

New Port Richey Police Dept. (24/7)

6739 Adams St., New Port Richey, Fla. 34652

Dade City Police Dept. (24/7)

38042 Pasco Ave., Dade City, Fla. 33525

Pasco Detention Facility (Lobby - 24/7)

20101 Central Blvd., Land O'Lakes, Fla. 34637

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 the program works?

1. Visit one of the six sponsoring facilities on the list below to obtain a red sharps container.
2. Take the new container to your home and place it out of reach of children.
3. Perform your injections as needed, and then dispose of the syringes completely intact into the sharps container.
4. When full, seal the container and bring it back to a participating location.

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

SHARPS Exchange Program locations

Advent Health Zephyrhills Outpatient Desk

7050 Gall Blvd., Zephyrhills, Fla. 33541
6 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F

Advent Health Dade City

Inquire at Information Desk
13100 Ft. King Road, Dade City, Fla. 33525
8 a.m. to 8 p.m. M-F

Trinity Medical Center Emergency Room

9330 State Road 54, Trinity, Fla. 34654 (24/7)

Morton Plant North Bay

Medical Arts Building Outreach Laboratory,
Ste. 100A, 6600 Madison St.,
New Port Richey, Fla. 34652
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. M-F

Suncoast Eye Center

Surgery Center (back of building)
14003 Lakeshore Blvd., Hudson, Fla. 34667
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. M-F

Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point Emergency Room

14100 Fivay Road, Hudson, Fla. 34667 (24/7)

All hospital information desks and/or concierge desks located at main entrances can provide details of the Hospitals Sharps Program. Sharps are not accepted at any Health Department locations or any Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers.



GOING BEYOND
the Text

DISPOSE OF UNUSED DRUGS

Is your medicine cabinet filled with expired drugs or medications you no longer use? Medicine take-back programs are a good way to remove expired, unwanted or unused medicines from the home and reduce the chance that others may accidentally take the medicine.

Each year, the Drug Enforcement Administration hosts a National Prescription Take-Back Day. Visit takebackday.dea.gov for more information. The 20th National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is on April 24, 2021. Research information about drug take-back and sharps programs, including:

- Who oversees the programs?
- What is the purpose of these designated programs?
- Where do they take place in Pasco County?
- When can you dispose of unneeded, expired or used drugs or drug paraphernalia?
- Why should these items be disposed of in the designated areas?
- How will using specific drop-off areas benefit the community?

Compile your information into a news story, feature article, column or editorial. Use the articles from the *Tampa Bay Times* as models for your article. Be sure to note the type of article you are writing at the top of your paper. Share what you have learned with your class and family members.

Florida Standards

Health: HE.4-12.B.3; HE.4-12.B.5; HE.4-12.C.1; HE.4-12.C.2; HE.4-12.7; HE.4-12.P.8 Language Arts: LAFS.4-12.RF.3; LAFS.4-12.RF.4; LAFS.4-12.RI.1; LAFS.4-12.RI.3; LAFS.4-12.SL.1; LAFS.4-12.SL.2; LAFS.4-12.W.1; LAFS.4-12.W.2; LAFS.4-12.W.3; LAFS.4-12.W.4 Science: SC.4-12.L.17; SC.4-12.N.1

PASCO COUNTY Residential Cooking Oil RECYCLING EFFORT PROGRAM

Since 2007, Pasco County has participated in the Cooking Oil Recycling Effort (C.O.R.E.) program, a statewide initiative to educate citizens and municipalities on residential cooking oil collection and recycling.

Through the C.O.R.E. program, used cooking oils are recycled and processed for use in products such as poultry feed, soap, biofuel and fertilizer.

When oil and grease are poured down your drain, they stick to the inside of sewer pipes and build up. This can cause blockages that can back up sewage into your home or cause a sewer overflow onto your neighborhood streets. Overflows are a health hazard and can be expensive. Have a septic tank? Recycling your used oils can help reduce drain field problems. Recycling used cooking oils also helps reduce the county's pump station and sewer maintenance costs.

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

For more information, call Pasco County Solid Waste, Environmental Compliance at 813-929-2755, ext. 2046.

Cooking Recycling Effort

TIPS

- Never pour grease down the sink.
- Before washing pots and dishes, scrape food waste into the trash.
- Minimize use of your garbage disposal. It's not a trash can. A lot of small pieces can clog pipes.
- Use sink strainers and clean them often.
- Pour cooled oils and fats into a jug or can and bring them to a cooking oil recycling location.



Pasco County C.O.R.E.

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

East Pasco Transfer Station

9626 Handcart Road
Dade City, Fla. 33525

West Pasco Recycling Center

14606 Hays Road
Spring Hill, Fla. 34610

Pasco County Facilities

7220 Osteen Road
New Port Richey, Fla. 34653

Zephyrhills Maintenance Yard

39421 South Ave.
Zephyrhills, Fla. 33542

**PASCO
COUNTY** 
HAS **12 C.O.R.E.**
DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

In 2019,
THE PROGRAM COLLECTED
nearly **4,000** 
GALLONS
of used fats and oils

In 2020,
THE PROGRAM COLLECTED
nearly **3,000** 
GALLONS
of used fats and oils

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 due to residents flushing

wipes, trash and hygiene products down the toilet. Wipes are one of the main causes of problems in the wastewater collection system. Cleaning and baby wipes do not desegregate like toilet paper and should not be flushed.

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, pads, feminine hygiene products, family planning products, cotton swabs and cat litter in the trash, not down a drain or toilet.

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 an item, doesn't mean you should.

For more information, call Pasco County Solid Waste, Environmental Compliance at 813-929-2755, ext. 2049.

PRODUCTS THAT YOU SHOULD NOT FLUSH INCLUDE:

- Baby or cleaning wipes
- 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 medication
- Syringes

Florida-Friendly FERTILIZING

Turfgrass needs nutrients to remain healthy. Fertilizer is frequently used to make lawns green, healthy and more stress-tolerant. Fertilizing correctly will save you money, prevent water pollution and protect our environment.

When it rains, fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides on your lawn and garden can end up in our waterways through the stormwater system. The excess nitrogen and phosphorous in fertilizers cause algae blooms, lowering the oxygen level and making it difficult for fish and other aquatic wildlife to survive.

DO: Test your soil before applying fertilizer. Many Florida soils are high in phosphorous, which is one of the three major nutrients in fertilizer. If the test shows that there is enough phosphorous in the soil, you should choose a fertilizer without it. For more information on soil tests, contact the Pasco County Extension office at 352-518-0156 or pascocountyfl.net/3389/Cooperative-Extension.

DO: Apply fertilizer only when the grass is actively growing. For most areas in Florida, grass doesn't grow in the winter. If you fertilize during this time, it is not only a waste of money, but also a source of water pollution, since fertilizer will go through the soil or run off and contaminate nearby bodies of water.

DO: Use a slow-release fertilizer. Many fertilizers provide 60 days or more of fertilization. This allows for fewer nutrients to be wasted or lost as pollutants.

DO: Use only the amount of fertilizer that is recommended. More is not better!

DO: Sweep up excess fertilizer on paved areas and put it back in the bag.

DON'T: Do not apply fertilizer if rain is predicted within 24-36 hours.

DON'T: Do not use fertilizer or pesticide within 10 feet of a water body.



PICK UP after your POOCH

Everyone knows that to be a good neighbor, it is important to pick up after your pet. But did you know that pet waste contributes to water pollution?

When it rains, water that does not soak into the ground is referred to as "stormwater." This excess water makes its way into gutters and storm drains, which lead to swales, ditches, canals and the Gulf of Mexico.

Stormwater carries nutrients from pet waste into these waterways, causing algae blooms, decreased oxygen in the water and an uninhabitable environment for fish, waterfowl and other aquatic animals. Contaminated waters are also unsafe for swimming and can cause illness or even death in humans and pets.

Help keep our waterways clean and healthy – dispose of pet waste in the trash!





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About NIE



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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 free of charge thanks to our generous subscribers and individual, corporate and foundation sponsors. NIE teaching materials cover a variety of subjects and are aligned to the Florida Standards.

For more information about NIE, visit tampabay.com/nie, call 727-893-8138 or email ordernie@tampabay.com. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/TBTimesNIE. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/TBTNIE.

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.



The Pasco County Recycling program offers educational presentations to groups such as civic associations, homeowners associations and youth groups on topics including waste reduction and recycling. For more information or to schedule a presentation, call 727-856-4539 or email recycling@pascocountyfl.net.

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Florida Standards

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

Health: HE.412.B.3; HE.412.B.5; HE.412.C.1; HE.412.C.2; HE.412.7; HE.412.P.8
 Language Arts: LAFS.412.RF.3; LAFS.412.RF.4; LAFS.412.RI.1; LAFS.412.RI.3; LAFS.412.SL.1; LAFS.412.SL.2; LAFS.412.W.1; LAFS.412.W.2; LAFS.412.W.3; LAFS.412.W.4
 Science: SC.612.6; SC.412.L.17; SC.412.N.1; SC.412.N.4; SC.912.E.7.1
 Social Studies: SS.812.E.1; SS.812.E.2; SS.912.FL.2
 Visual Arts: VA.412.C.1; VA.412.C.1; VA.412.F.1; VA.412.F.2; VA.412.F.3; VA.412.S.1



GOING BEYOND the Text

THE POLLUTION PROBLEM

In these two activities, videos of a news event are presented for discussion as well as to inspire the use of evidence to support logical claims using the main ideas of the video. Students must analyze background information provided about this current event, draw out the main ideas and key details, and review different opinions on the issue. Then, students will present their own claims using facts and analysis for support. Go to the following lessons, watch the videos and complete the discussion questions:

- The Oceans Are Filled with Plastic, and the Problem Might Get Worse <https://nieonline.com/tbtimes/videooftheweek.cfm?id=395>
- Scientists Scramble to Create Replacements for Plastic <https://nieonline.com/tbtimes/videooftheweek.cfm?id=440>

Next, find *Tampa Bay Times* articles, photos, cartoons, editorials or letters to the editor focused on the same issues as the class discussion and videos. In a blog post or journal entry, write about what you have learned and explore some possible solutions to this growing problem.

Florida Standards
 Language Arts: LAFS.412.RF.3; LAFS.412.RF.4; LAFS.412.RI.1; LAFS.412.RI.3; LAFS.412.SL.1; LAFS.412.SL.2; LAFS.412.W.1; LAFS.412.W.2; LAFS.412.W.3; LAFS.412.W.4
 Science: SC.412.L.17; SC.412.N.1; SC.612.L.17