



# 2026 SPRING RECYCLING GUIDE



## Cartons & Cans

Spring cleaning can make you break a sweat! Whether you enjoyed some lemonade, pop or a cold brew, just empty, rinse, recycle and repeat!

## Aluminum Trays & Foil

Firing up the grill is a sure sign of spring! Clean aluminum trays and foil are perfect for your recycling bin.

## Corrugated Plastic Yard Signs

Plastic stands should be thrown in the trash and metal stands can be taken to a scrap metal recycler such as Padnos. Signs themselves can be placed in a curbside recycling bin.

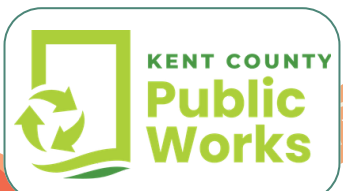
## Paper, Folders & Shredded Documents

If your spring cleaning involves office decluttering, paper gets the recycling green light. Just remember no shredded paper due to its small size! Shredded paper is only accepted by paper-only recyclers such as PaperGator.

## Plastic Buckets & Containers

Clean, five-gallon buckets without handles are the largest size we can accept for recycling. Rigid plant pots or containers are also OK to recycle, but we cannot accept flimsy four-or six-packs from seedlings.

For more info, check out our  
Waste & Recycling Directory  
at [ReimagineTrash.org](https://ReimagineTrash.org)





# NOT FOR YOUR RECYCLING BIN?

## DON'T WORRY! THERE ARE LANDFILL ALTERNATIVES!



### Paints & Stains

Aerosol and oil-based paints, as well as stains, can be disposed of at any of our five SafeChem drop-off locations for free.

Once dry, latex paint can go in the trash.

### Electronics

Do you have an old TV or computer that is taking up space in your basement? A drawer full of old phones and mystery chargers or cords? A broken blender or toaster?

Most electronics can be recycled for free through our North and South Kent Recycling and Waste Centers!

### Propane Tanks

One-pound propane canisters used for grilling or camping are free to dispose of through our SafeChem program.

Larger tanks will have a fee and need to go to either North or South Kent Recycling and Waste Centers!

### Chemicals & Cleaners

If cleaning the garage, shed or under the kitchen sink is on your to-do list, old automotive fluids, fertilizers, pool chemicals, cleaners and other hazardous waste can't just go in the trash.

Bring them to any of our five SafeChem locations during designated hours to drop off items for free!

### Batteries

Lithium-ion, rechargeable and button batteries should all be brought to a SafeChem location. Alkaline batteries should be taped and then placed in the trash.

### Flexible Plastics

Mulch bags, soil bags, birdseed bags and snow melt bags are all soft or flexible plastics that can't be processed through regular recycling due to the way they tangle around sorting machines.

Many retailers that recycle plastic grocery bags will also accept clean flexible plastic bags!

### Bulky Plastics

Bigger plastic items such as tiny tyke playhouses, children's ride-on toys, plastic sheds or plastic greenhouse roofing are too large to recycle in your bin. Try a commercial recycler instead!

Reusing these items through donating, giving them away or other creative repurposing is a great option for preventing waste from going to landfill.

### Scrap metal

Metal garden tools, rusted out grills, lawn mower blades, metal lawn art and other odds and ends metal pieces are infinitely recyclable through scrap metal recycling drop-offs like Padnos.

We host two free scrap metal drop-offs at our North and South Kent facilities!

### Garden Hoses

Sometimes things just can't be recycled – that's where reuse comes in! Make old hoses into an outdoor rug, homemade soaker hose, bungee for holding back thorny berry bushes, and more!

Same goes for rubber boots, landscape edging or fabric – reuse is the way to go!



ReimagineTrash.org



Recycle@kentcountymi.gov

