

## Hello, Friends!

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### Recycling and Simplifying — Is That Even Possible?

Most people want to treat the world's environment correctly, so we all try to recycle — but sometimes the whole recycling process gets a little confusing, right?

Most of us probably keep our recycling bins/trash containers in the garage, but you may not have the space to put them within easy reach from the garage door. If so, it's okay to locate recycling bins on a shelf, maybe in a closet or breezeway. Once those bins get full, you can dump that into the larger recycling trash containers which go out to the street on recycling day.

Here are some helpful tips on recycling, although your local rules may be slightly different:

#### Glass

Rinse your glass containers out so they are clean. Often, you may not be able to recycle the metal lids, if they are attached.

#### Cardboard

Thanks to Amazon, I am sure recycling centers have seen a huge increase in the amount of cardboard recycled. It's a good idea to flatten your boxes and place them together so they take up less room.

#### Metals

Aluminum and "tin" cans can be recycled easily, and usually you don't have to remove their labels. They should always be clean and dry. I just give them a quick rinse so they keep the smell down. I have been surprised that you can recycle aluminum foil which hasn't been used for food. You can just wad up clean foil and recycle it.

#### Paper

I have a small paper bag that I keep under my desk. That's where I put all my recycled paper. Then when it is full, I put the entire paper bag into my recycling container. This includes all paper, colored paper, printed paper, even telephone books and paperback books. It all can be recycled. Another choice is to call your local library, to see if they take any donations.

#### Appliances

If your appliance still works, make some calls and see who might be interested in receiving it. You can call your local shelter or church and they should be able to give you some guidance. Otherwise, non-working equipment will usually be taken by your trash collectors.

#### Electronics

If you have some obsolete electronics laying around the house, you can keep your eyes open who is accepting trade-in when buying a new one. I have dropped off a few computers at my local goodwill store, but I have removed the hard drive and had my husband put a couple of screw holes and then just recycled it, this way no one can get my information off of it.

#### Hazardous Waste

Batteries and paint can be usually dropped off at your local hazardous waste site. These often are located at the regular recycling centers. Sometimes, there are annual hazardous waste disposal collections. Check websites and social media pages to see the schedule in your area.

#### Leftover Paint

Proper disposal of paint is more difficult than some other items. Some municipalities have a special annual disposal period, while some do not accept it at all. Please check with your local governmental unit for details in your township, village, city or county.

Your local professional organizer,

Betty Huotari

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