

# SINGLE STREAM COLLECTION PROGRAM

*Easier than ever, just throw it together!*



Providing for solid waste disposal needs of a modern society is a difficult task. Harrisonburg is leading the efforts with an “all in one” system for waste and recycling collection. This program does not apply to apartment complexes and businesses with private trash haulers not affiliated with the city’s collection services.

## HOW DOES THIS NEW PROGRAM WORK?

Residents (who currently receive the city’s refuse collection services) will no longer need to separate waste and recyclable materials. Collection days will NOT change.

**Remove liquids and hazardous items from the trash** (batteries, paint, motor oil, needles, fluorescent bulbs, herbicides, pesticides, antifreeze, cleaners, etc.). It is also recommended (but not required) to remove food.

All waste should be placed into a bag or container and set by the curb for city crews to pick up. The amount allowed curbside remains the same.

City trucks will travel through your neighborhood and pick up the combined waste and recyclables.

After collection, the waste is loaded on a larger vehicle and transferred to a processing facility.

Upon arrival, the load is weighed. The weight of each load determines how the city is charged.

Waste and recyclables are separated at the facility. Recyclable materials are then marketed for reuse.

Reports are generated to monitor total tons of waste coming from Harrisonburg and to develop the city’s recycling rate.

The city of Harrisonburg has developed a Solid Waste Management Plan as an overall guide for policy decisions concerning solid waste management.

The goals of the **Solid Waste Management Plan**:

1. To protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Harrisonburg with effective solid waste disposal plans.
2. To provide for the efficient and economical disposal of the city’s solid waste.
3. To maintain recycling activities in the city to comply with current state mandated recycling rates of 25%.
4. To continue to develop an integrated approach for the handling and disposal of solid waste.
5. To effectively and efficiently use limited natural resources.
6. To protect the environment from the mismanagement of solid waste.
7. To comply with state regulations (9 VAC 20-130-10).
8. To develop and improve education and training in environmental programs for schools and the general public.

Email the Public Works Department at [publicworks@harrisonburgva.gov](mailto:publicworks@harrisonburgva.gov). To view a complete copy of the city’s Solid Waste Management Plan, visit [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/single-stream-collection](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/single-stream-collection).

Public Works Department | 320 East Mosby Road Harrisonburg, VA 22801 | 540.434.5928  
[www.Harrisonburgva.gov/single-stream-collection](http://www.Harrisonburgva.gov/single-stream-collection)





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## ABOUT THE PROCESSING FACILITY

In 2006, a single stream recycling facility opened to include all garbage. From that time, the facility has grown to two, state of the art, all in one recycling programs. One program is designed to recycle construction and demolition material, while the second is specially designed for the separation of household waste. This facility has the ability to accept waste materials from the city of Harrisonburg, sort out the trash, and separate other materials to be recycled.

## BEST PRACTICES FOR A SUCCESSFUL SINGLE STREAM COLLECTION PROGRAM

- Apartment complexes and businesses with private trash haulers should continue to separate their recyclables and general waste, as this Single Stream Collection Program does not apply.
- It is recommended (but not required) that food items should be removed from containers and not placed in the trash. Composting is encouraged.
- Dump out liquids before throwing away containers (example: milk, juice, water, grease, etc.).
- **Remove hazardous items** (example: batteries, needles, motor oil, cleaners, fluorescent bulbs, paint, herbicides, pesticides, etc.). It is recommended to dispose of these items during the [Household Hazardous Waste Collection](#) events.
- Sign up for trash alerts by visiting [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/notify-me](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/notify-me). You will be notified when the collection schedule changes due to holidays or inclement weather.

## BENEFITS OF SINGLE STREAM COLLECTION

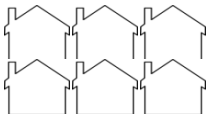
- It's easy! Everyone in Harrisonburg will now recycle without consciously thinking about it.
- The existing, citywide recycling rate is 27%. Over time, the recycling rate is expected to increase to a minimum of 50%.
- More materials will be recycled, not just certain plastics.
- Crews will no longer need two separate collection vehicles thereby releasing fewer gas emissions.
- Collection schedules will stay the same and a bulk collection will still be offered.

## IT'S ALL IN THE NUMBERS

12,000: Tons of waste and recycling collected annually



6,000: Number of households participating in the program



50: Percentage recycling rates are expected to increase to



4: Weekly collection days for waste and recycling



ONE: Easier than ever, put it in ONE container



[www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/single-stream-collection](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/single-stream-collection)