

Salt Lake County Sanitation Division

www.sanitation.slco.org • 801-562-6435

The Blue Bin

As a resident in Salt Lake County Special Sanitation District #1 you get one 95-gallon blue bin for your recyclables. Recycling is the best way to reduce the overall waste stream, extend the life of the valley's landfills, save energy, and conserve resources. Plus, recycling produces revenue for the county that helps keep your sanitation fee low. In the Salt Lake Valley residents are only recycling about 10% of their waste compared to close to 30% nationwide. Education is key to more and better recycling. Three questions we often get are:

Does everything in the can really get recycled?

Everything you put in the blue bin that can be recycled is recycled. We deliver your recyclables to processors that sort the material, package it, and sell it to manufacturers around the world where it is used in a huge variety of products. Recyclables are a commodity, which is why it is so important to keep garbage out of your blue can. We employ Quality Assurance Inspectors to monitor what goes in the cans, and thanks to your diligence, the material we collect from you is 96% clean and ready to be reused in new products.

Why can't I recycle glass?

Glass is currently kept out of the recycling bin because it requires a separate sorting process and because there is not a sufficient local market for the material. Once the processors are able to take glass we will be able to collect it and you will be able to dispose of it in your blue bin. In the meantime, there are glass collection sites in the valley. For a full list, see the Recycling Guide on our website: www.sanitation.slco.org/recyclingresources.

When can I get weekly recycling?

We only collect your recyclables every other week because there is not enough overall volume to justify weekly pickups. When demand increases as more people recycle more material, we will implement weekly recycling. We provide a good option if you are a heavy recycler: a second can at no charge.

Find out if you are recycling everything you can and learn more about recycling on Salt Lake County's Recycling Information website: www.recycle.slco.org.

Recycle these items:

- All clean paper and cardboard (no food or liquid waste)
- Plastic bottles, jugs, and bags
- All metals
- Empty aerosol cans
- Small metal appliances and metal cookware
- Paper egg cartons

Keep these out of the can:

- Used paper towels or tissues
- Green waste
- Food and food-stained items
- Diapers
- Styrofoam
- Wood
- Rocks and dirt
- Plastic toys and electronics
- Pet food bags
- Glass of any kind
- Anything with paint, oil, or solvents
- Clothing, blankets, and shoes
- Ceramic dishes

