

Where Do I Recycle...?

- Use this Guide to properly dispose of items that may be recycled into valuable raw materials for new products.
- Putting these items in Village recycling bins will contaminate otherwise recyclable materials, waste resources, and can damage human and environmental health.
- As always, reduce consumption and reuse items before turning to recycling.



Plastic Bags

Plastic bags and film can be recycled into composite lumber used in outdoor furniture, decking, and playground equipment, but not curbside!

Many local grocers and retailers, including Mariano's, Jewel-Osco, and Target, have free drop off recycling programs for #2 and #4 soft plastic bags and film. Sunset/Grand Foods is looking for a solution. Collection bins are in D36 schools and other Winnetka locations. **No plastic bags in recycling bins (even to hold your recyclables).**



Organics

Food scraps and other organics can be combined with landscape waste and recycled into a valuable soil amendment. In Winnetka, there are many

options for composting food scraps and other organics, including backyard; container swap services for residents, organizations, and events; cart-based programs for businesses; and a free drop off program for Winnetka residents. Composting services offered by Collective Resource Compost, WasteNot Compost, and Lakeshore Recycling Systems. **Compost everything that was once alive. If it grows, it goes.**



Bread Tags

Plastic bread tags are a valuable raw material but too small to be sorted with traditional recycling equipment. Charities collect these tags, sell them directly

to recycling processors, and use the proceeds to purchase wheelchairs for those in need. Go Green Winnetka, the Glencoe Sustainability Task Force, SCARCE, and Danielle Cares for Chairs collect Bread Tags for Wheelchairs. Look for collection jars in D36 schools and other Winnetka locations. **260,000 bread tags = 200 pounds of plastic = one basic wheelchair!**



Textiles

Textiles can be reused through donation, resale, and/or recycling. Donate reusable clothing and other textiles (bedroom and bathroom bedding, accessories, etc.) in Winnetka to the Thrift Shop, the Winnetka Congregational Church Rummage, or the Christ Church Rummage. Most organizations that accept textiles for donation sell their excess and unsaleable items to recyclers like USAgain and Chicago Textile Recycling.



Polystyrene

Polystyrene (aka styrofoam) can be recycled into hard plastic for crown moldings, picture frames, and park benches. But it is lightweight

and requires specialized equipment to compress it into a denser material. Winnetka residents may drop off block-style and clean food service polystyrene at the Public Works Building, 1390 Willow Road, between 1 and 3 pm on Mondays, weather permitting. Abt Electronics in Glenview accepts block-style polystyrene during regular business hours. **No peanuts or other foam.**



Resources

[Village of Winnetka Public Works](#)

[Village of Winnetka Composting](#)

[Go Green Winnetka](#)

[SWANCC](#)

Please visit our website for more complete information on composting, reducing your carbon footprint, the plastics crisis, and more.

