

Single Stream FAQ

Single Stream Recycling

What is Single Stream Recycling?

Single Stream recycling is a recycling process in which all materials collected for recycling are mixed together with no sorting required. Now your aluminum cans and plastic bottles can be recycled all together with newspaper, cardboard and other recyclable items.

Why Single Stream?

It is a popular and effective method to collect and process recyclables. Converting to a Single Stream program increases overall participation and the amount of recyclables collected. It is a recommended strategy for reaching the 75% recycling goal before 2020.

What does “Recycle All Together – Recycle Right!” mean?

With no sorting required, your household recyclables are placed all together into the same cart. In addition, we as a community will ‘Recycle All Together’ to reach the 75% goal and create a more sustainable Manatee County. ‘Recycle Right’ is the national campaign initiative created to improve recycling education and awareness. It specifically details the right way to recycle and emphasizes what items can/can’t be recycled.

What items can go in my new recycling cart?

All materials currently collected will be collected in the Single Stream program. An educational label has been created for easy reference and is on the lid of each cart. **NO GARBAGE OR YARD WASTE IS TO BE PUT INTO THE CART!**

Your New Cart

When is this happening? When will I receive my new cart?

Residents will receive their new cart during July - September and will begin using them the week after being distributed. More detailed information will be included with your cart.

Can the blue bins be used for Single Stream beginning in July until cart arrives?

Yes, haulers will be using the Single Stream trucks and have agreed to collect unsorted bins beginning in July.

Can I keep my old 18-gallon bins?

Yes. However, if you don’t want to keep your bins, place them out at your curb the week immediately following delivery of your new cart, on your recycling collection service day. Once you’ve received your new cart, please start using it immediately instead of the 18-gallon blue bins. The 18-gallon bins may not be placed at the curb with recycling in them once we begin Single Stream recycling.

What if I don’t like the cart?

If you are hesitant about using your new recycling cart, the County recycling department asks you to use it over the next 90 days while the collection haulers ensure all residents in the unincorporated portion of the County have received their cart.

What happens if my cart breaks?

Contact Manatee County Utilities Customer Service at 941-792-8811 and your cart will be replaced or repaired. (There is no charge for this.)



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Collection Service

Will my collection day change?

No. Your collection day will remain the same as it currently is.

Will my hauler change?

No. Your hauler will remain the same as it currently is.

Will there be an additional cost on my bill for the cart or Single Stream?

There will be no increase to the resident related to the implementation of Single Stream.

I currently have medical back door service, will that change?

No. Medical back door service will continue. Haulers will deliver the cart to the backdoor and collect it from there as well.

Additional Information

Where do all of my recyclables go?

Once collected from your curb, anything that is picked up becomes the property and responsibility of the waste haulers. Your recyclables are taken to the sorting facilities owned by Waste Management or Waste Pro for processing and recycling.

What if I live out-of-state for part of the year?

Seasonal residents should arrange for their cart to be moved to the garage or house by a neighbor, friend or relative.

Where can I find additional information?

Additional information will be included in your carts. You may also visit MyManatee.org/Recycling for your recycling, garbage, and solid waste questions.

Recycle All Together –
Recycle Right!

