



“One Man’s Trash...”

Your guide to reducing, reusing and recycling

Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

Serving: Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott & Switzerland Counties



812-574-4080
www.seird.org

Spring 2025
Quarterly Newsletter

Difficult Disposal Days Are Back

Our Difficult Disposal Days provide residents with a reminder of the services we offer year-round for “difficult” items, including household hazardous waste (HHW), electronics, and refrigerant-containing appliances that are potentially harmful to human health and our environment if disposed of improperly.

We accept HHW year-round at our facility in Jefferson County. But with our special mobile HHW collections, we bring this service to your local Recycle Center twice each year. HHW disposal is always available at no charge.

You can also recycle electronics and refrigerant appliances year-round at our Recycle Centers. However, standard fees apply. On Difficult Disposal Days, each Recycle Center accepts one item per household at no charge, offering residents savings.

May – Household Hazardous Waste

We will host special mobile HHW collections throughout the District. There is no mobile collection in Jefferson County since the facility in Madison accepts HHW year-round.

Saturday, May 3

- Franklin County Recycle Center – 8 to 10 a.m.
- Batesville Area Recycle Center – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, May 10

- Jennings County Recycle Center – 8 to 10 a.m.
- Scott County Recycle Center – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, May 17

- Switzerland County Recycle Center – 8 to 10 a.m.
- Ohio County Recycle Center – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Visit www.seird.org/household-hazardous-waste for additional free HHW Difficult Disposal dates in August.



Credit: PictureSyndicate | iStock | Getty Images Plus

June – Electronics

TVs, computer monitors, or other items with a screen can be recycled free of charge on select dates at each County Recycle Center. We will accept ONE item per residence, at no cost, on these dates during the center’s normal operating hours.

June 6 & 7

- Batesville Area Recycle Center
- Franklin County Recycle Center

June 13 & 14

- Jefferson County Recycle Center
- Jennings County Recycle Center
- Ripley County Recycle Center

June 20 & 21

- Ohio County Recycle Center

June 25 & 28

- Switzerland County Recycle Center

June 26 & 28

- Scott County Recycle Center

July – Refrigerant Appliances

Refrigerators, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, and any other appliances containing a refrigerant will be accepted at no charge on select dates at each County Recycle Center. We will accept ONE item per residence, free of charge, on these dates during the center’s normal operating hours.

July 11 & 12

- Batesville Area Recycle Center
- Franklin County Recycle Center

July 18 & 19

- Jennings County Recycle Center
- Ohio County Recycle Center
- Ripley County Recycle Center

July 23 & 26

- Switzerland County Recycle Center

July 24 & 26

- Scott County Recycle Center

July 25 & 26

- Jefferson County Recycle Center



Credit: Olieh_Slobodnik | E+ | Getty Images

Keep Contaminants Out of Your Bin

Recycling is an integral part of protecting our environment and conserving resources, but it only works when done correctly. Contamination and co-mingling of recyclables can create serious challenges, reducing the effectiveness of recycling and increase waste. At Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD), we rely on residents to do their part to keep recycling streams clean and efficient.

Improperly sorted materials are one of the biggest challenges we face. When recyclables are dropped off at SEIRD recycling centers, it’s essential that they are properly separated. Mixing different materials together, such as clean, dried paper or plastic bottles with plastic bags or Styrofoam, makes it harder to process and leads to contamination. Items like food waste, greasy pizza boxes, and other non-recyclable materials can disrupt the recycling process and cause entire loads to be discarded.

Another key to improve recycling is by breaking down cardboard boxes and

paperboard containers. Flattening materials like corrugated cardboard, cereal boxes, and food cartons helps maximize space in collection bins and makes transportation more efficient. This small step can have a big impact on how much material we can collect and process.

Most people don’t consider cleaning recyclables an essential step in the recycling process, but it’s an important habit. Rinsing containers before placing them in the bin helps prevent contamination from leftover food or liquids, ensuring higher-quality materials are sent for processing. SEIRD also asks that you check plastic containers before recycling. All SEIRD recycling centers accept #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs. #5 plastic containers are accepted only at the Batesville, Jefferson, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland Recycle Centers.

By making these simple adjustments, you can help SEIRD maintain an efficient recycling program. Visit www.seird.org for more information on proper recycling practices.



Need Help?

We offer walk-through consultations to businesses in our District and will help them develop action plans to properly dispose of hazardous materials or recycle standard items, scrap materials, or off-specification goods. If you operate a business in our seven-county District and would like some recycling advice, contact SEIRD at info@seird.org or 812-574-4080.



Keep Southeastern Indiana Clean

Litter is not only unsightly but also poses significant health risks to both humans and animals. Items like cigarette butts, discarded plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, sharp metal cans, plastic shopping bags, and disposable face masks clutter our parks, playgrounds, roadsides, and waterways. Natural elements such as wind and water, along with animals and traffic, disperse this litter, sending it into storm drains, entangling it in fences and trees, and scattering it across lawns and parking lots. Often, this debris ends up in our rivers, lakes, and oceans, causing severe problems for fish, birds, and other wildlife.

Whether or not you have littered in the past, you can be part of the solution. Educate friends and family about the harms of littering. By collectively choosing to stop littering, we can ensure a healthier environment for people and wildlife, and our roads, streams, and public spaces will become more beautiful than ever before.

Beyond everyday litter, illegal dumping of larger items is also an issue. Disposing of furniture, appliances, tires, construction debris, and household waste in unauthorized areas such as empty lots, highways, and wooded areas is against the law. Oftentimes these illegally dumped items attract children and wildlife — posing significant health and safety risks. Dirty diapers and food trash attract rodents, insects, and other vermin. Dumping items pollutes the soil and water and destroys Indiana's natural beauty. Please be sure to landfill or recycle items you no longer want or need.

To report illegal dumping, please contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) online at www.in.gov/idem/5274.htm or call 800-451-6027 and select option 3. All reports are confidential. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our community clean!

Household Hazardous Waste Could Be on Your Shelf

Many household products come with warning labels meant to signal potential danger, yet they often remain forgotten on shelves or in cabinets long after they are needed. In a typical home, families have about 100 pounds of unwanted hazardous chemicals stored. The unneeded — and often forgotten — items are called “Household Hazardous Waste” (HHW). Take a look around. You probably have HHW that you don't need, such as old paint, stain, lawn chemicals, bug spray, antifreeze, gasoline, and similar items.

Gathering and safely disposing of HHW will open up storage space and also make your home safer for your family, as well as emergency responders in case of fire or natural disaster. Please don't pour HHW down the drain, pour it onto the ground, or put it into the trash. Instead, take advantage of our HHW program to safely dispose of it. Here is a list of some of the most

common HHW that your family may have sitting on shelves just waiting to be safely cleared away:

- Automotive fluids
- Drain openers
- Fertilizer and plant food
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Hobby paints and glues
- Oven cleaners
- Pool chemicals
- Oil-based paint, stain, and paint thinners.
- Solvents
- Toilet bowl cleaners

SEIRD accepts HHW from residents in the counties of Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland. For the dates of each local event, read “Difficult Disposal Days Are Back” on page 1.



Greener Cleaning Made Simple

Cleaning your home doesn't have to come at the expense of the environment. By making a few simple changes, you can reduce chemical use, minimize waste, and make your cleaning routine more sustainable.

Start by thinking mechanical first. A good scrub brush, a dish scrubber, or even an old toothbrush can provide plenty of cleaning power without the need for harsh chemicals. Preventing messes in the first place can also cut down on the need for strong cleaners—using drain baskets, for example, helps keep debris from clogging your pipes. Before purchasing new cleaning products, take inventory of what you already have. Many homes have cleaning supplies stored in multiple places, from the laundry room to under the kitchen sink or even in the garage. Using up what you already own before buying more reduces waste and saves money.

Another great option is to make your own cleaners using simple household ingredients. Vinegar, baking soda, salt, lemon juice, and mineral oil can be combined to create effective, budget-friendly alternatives to store-bought



products. Many homemade cleaner recipes are available online, but it's important to handle all cleaning solutions—homemade or store-bought—with care, as some can still be irritating to the skin and eyes.

If you prefer to purchase cleaning products, opt for the mildest and safest option available. Choose products that

clearly list their ingredients and provide straightforward instructions without requiring special safety measures for use or disposal. The EPA's Safer Choice program provides a helpful guide to environmentally friendly products, which can be found at www.epa.gov/saferchoice.

When selecting products and

containers, consider their environmental impact. Look for recycled-content packaging, and choose reusable cloth towels or old rags instead of disposable paper towels. If paper towels are necessary, select those made from recycled materials. Buying concentrates is another way to cut down on packaging waste. Some cleaning products are sold in concentrated forms, allowing you to add water at home, while others, like laundry detergent, are designed to be used in smaller amounts. If you have softened water, you may be able to use even less detergent for the same cleaning power.

Proper storage and disposal of cleaning products are just as important as choosing the right ones. Always keep cleaning solutions in their original, labeled containers and never transfer them into food or beverage containers. Store them out of reach of children and pets, and avoid placing potentially hazardous materials near heat sources or in direct sunlight.

By making these small changes, you can create a cleaner, healthier home while reducing waste and protecting the environment.

Celebrate Earth Day



Credit: FG Trade Latin | E+ | Getty Images

As land, air, and water pollution affected more and more people in the mid-20th century, preservation became a growing concern in the United States. By April 22, 1970, Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, had planned a national “teach-in” for the environment, marking the first Earth Day.

“Literally millions of Americans of all ages and from all walks of life participated in Earth Day celebrations from coast to coast,” Nelson noted in a 1980 article about the 10th anniversary of Earth Day in the EPA Journal. That first Earth Day not only raised awareness but also led to actions that improved the quality of our air, water, and land, protecting people and property, as well as fish and wildlife.

April 22, 2025, marks the 55th anniversary of Earth Day. After more than 50 years of environmental education, preservation, and conservation, it is as important now as ever to think about the environment and how our actions impact it. This is also a great time to celebrate the natural world and show our thanks for the many ways it supports us, giving us the ability to live and thrive. This Earth Day, get outside and enjoy our environment and the abundance of life it sustains. You could go for a hike, a walk, a run, or a bike ride. Look around and pay attention to the changes that spring brings to the natural world. Breathe the fresh air.

Nelson said, “So long as the human species inhabits the Earth, proper management of its resources will be the most fundamental issue we face. Our very survival will depend upon whether or not we are able to preserve, protect, and defend our environment.”

To learn more about Earth Day and what you can do, check out EPA.gov/earthday or EarthDay.org.

Mow Smarter with Grasscycling



Credit: Cavan Images | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Spring is here. No doubt you’ve pulled out the lawnmower, or at least thought about it. As you begin another mowing season, it’s time to think about “grasscycling.”

Grasscycling is allowing your grass clippings to drop back onto the lawn as you mow. Instead of picking up the clippings with the mower’s bagging attachment, you let them drop onto the grass. These short clippings decompose quickly. As a result, the clippings, which are about 80% water, provide your lawn with needed moisture. Grass clippings also contain nitrogen, a fertilizer that your lawn needs. When you grasscycle, your lawn produces and consumes some of its own “homemade” fertilizer, reducing the amount of fertilizer that you will need to buy and apply.

In addition to helping water and fertilize your lawn, grasscycling also reduces your waste. When you leave clippings on the lawn, you have no clippings to bag, carry, or dispose. When you are done mowing, you are done with the work! And you’ll be done more quickly, too. Grasscycling takes about one-third less time than mowing and bagging.

You don’t need a mulching mower

to grasscycle. Any mower can become a mulching, or grasscycling, mower. Simply remove the bagging attachment. If the bagger on your mower attaches to the back of the mowing deck, be sure that the discharge chute is covered after you remove the bag. You may need to insert a “chute cover.” If you have a side discharge mower, you won’t need to do anything more than remove the bagger.

No matter what kind of mower you use, you should be “trimming” your grass. In other words, give it regular trims, not one big “haircut.” Each time you mow, you should trim the top one-third or less off your lawn. If the grass is growing quickly, you may have to mow more than once a week. The small clippings will quickly begin to rot before the next mowing. If you chop off more than one-third in a single mowing, it is hard on the grass plants and you leave behind long clippings that take longer to break down.

Grasscycling requires only regular mowing and proper trimming. This season, consider grasscycling to make lawn care easier and more sustainable.

Everyday Earth Day Actions

Reduce Waste

Reducing waste takes a little bit of planning. For example, cooking more food from fresh ingredients can reduce packaging waste, as can growing your own food in a garden. Eating out less can limit the number of carry-out containers you bring home. These can also save you money and create a healthier lifestyle.

What can you do to limit the number of single-use plastic items you use? Plastic shopping bags, disposable utensils, straws, drink cups, and fast-food packaging too often litter our land and waterways. Say “no thank you” to items you don’t need. For example, if you are heading home to eat takeout food, you probably don’t need plastic utensils or paper napkins. If you are buying one or two items but forgot your reusable bag, you probably don’t need a plastic shopping bag.

Paper has two sides. Are you using both? On your printer, select two-sided printing or use the back side of paper for printed drafts, handwritten notes, or lists. Do you think before you print and remember to choose only the pages you need? When you use less paper, you also use less ink — and that can lead to big savings.

Get creative and think of more ways you can reduce waste in your everyday life!

Reuse

Many things in your home have more than one use. In fact, you already reuse many things — towels and sheets, dishes, pots and pans, and clothes. So reusing isn’t about creating a new habit, but rather about expanding an existing one. What else might you start to reuse? Shopping bags are an obvious choice, as is a lunch bag with washable containers. Taking advantage of the books, CDs, DVDs, and other resources at your local library and available online for download is another great way to reuse.

You can also get creative by making something new from something old,



Credit: andreswd | E+ | Getty Images

which is called upcycling. An old T-shirt can be turned into a new shopping bag. Empty cereal boxes can be covered to become magazine holders, and salt boxes can be turned into matching pen and pencil cups. Search online for “recycled crafts” and you’ll find all sorts of clever ideas.

If you have working, usable items that you no longer need, sell them at a garage sale, to a secondhand or consignment store, or through an online marketplace, such as Facebook Marketplace, Nextdoor, or OfferUp. Don’t want to bother with selling items? Give them away through an online website like Freecycle or donate them to a charitable organization.

Recycle

In 2025, most of us are used to recycling paper, boxes, cans, bottles, and jars that we use in our daily lives. But many other items can be recycled — just not with your household paper and containers. For example, you can recycle computers, tablets, televisions, appliances, cell phones, and more! For details about what and where you can recycle various items, visit our website at www.seird.org.

SEIRD Recycle and Reuse Centers

Batesville Area Recycle Center

616 John Street, Batesville
 Phone: 812-801-9099
 Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 1–6 p.m.;
 Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Franklin County Recycle and Reuse Center

9076 Landfill Road, Metamora (located off of U.S. Highway 52, west of Brookville)
 Phone: 513-239-0310
 Recycle Center Hours: Mon.–Sat., 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
 Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Jefferson County Recycle Center

6556 N. Shun Pike Road, Building #534, Madison (inside Jefferson Proving Ground)
 Phone: 812-574-4080
 Hours: Mon.–Fri., 7 a.m.–3 p.m.*; 2nd and 4th Sat., 8 a.m.–noon
 *The center stays open until 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.

Jefferson County Reuse Center

6511 N. Meridian Road (inside Jefferson Proving Ground), Madison
 Phone: 812-801-7012
 Hours: Tues. and Thurs., noon–5 p.m.;
 Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Jennings County Recycle and Reuse Center

4800 State Road 3, North Vernon (behind county garage)
 Phone: 812-352-0800
 Recycle Center Hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., 8 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
 Reuse Center Hours: Wed. and Fri., 1–6 p.m.; Sat., 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Ohio County Recycle and Reuse Center

1432 Barbour Way, Rising Sun
 Phone: 812-801-9037
 Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 1–6 p.m.;
 Sat., 8 a.m.–noon



Ripley County Recycle and Reuse Center

2710 N. Hasmer Hill Road, Osgood
 Phone: 812-292-2360
 Recycle Center Hours: Mon., 8 a.m.–3 p.m.;
 Tues. and Thurs., noon–6 p.m.;
 Fri., 8 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon
 (closed Wed. and Sun.)
 Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs.,
 noon–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Scott County Recycle and Reuse Center

4689 Double or Nothing Road, Underwood
 Phone: 812-752-8474
 Recycle Center Hours: Tues., Thurs., and
 Sat., 8 a.m.–4:15 p.m.
 Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs.,
 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Switzerland County Recycle, Building Materials Reuse Center and Reuse Store

19 McCreary Ridge Road, East Enterprise
 Phone: 812-599-3751
 Recycle and Building Materials Reuse
 Center Hours: Mon. and Wed., noon–6 p.m.;
 Sat., 8 a.m.–noon
 Reuse Store Hours: Mon. and Wed.,
 noon–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

www.seird.org

Recycle and Win Prizes This Earth Day

In honor of Earth Day, the Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) is launching the Recycling Participant Rewards Program. From April 21–26, you can drop off your recyclables at any SEIRD Recycle Center for a chance to win exciting prizes!

Here's how it works:

1. Visit an SEIRD Recycle Center during the week of April 21–26.
2. Drop off your recyclables.
3. Fill out a ticket with your name and contact information.

Each center will draw two names and award a gift to each winner.



Stay Up to Date

- Visit www.seird.org for any changes or updates to our drop-off recycling programs or collection events.
- Like us on Facebook. We post regular updates and handy tips on the Southeastern Indiana Recycling District Facebook page.
- Look for posters and notices in our Reuse Centers located in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties.

Shredding service available

Residents of our District can deliver sensitive documents for secure shredding to any of our Recycle Centers. There is a limit of three banker-sized (or similar) boxes per residence per visit. You do not need to remove staples, but please remove all metal tabs and metal reinforcements from hanging file folders, paper clips, clamp clips, etc.

When you deliver your documents to the Recycle Center, you will place them into a locked, tamper-proof container. When the container is full, it will be transferred to our facility in Madison where the contents will be shredded. If you are uncomfortable leaving your documents, you may call our office at 812-574-4080. We will be happy to make an appointment so you can deliver documents directly to the Jefferson County Recycle Center in Madison to personally watch them be shredded.

This is a program for residents and their personal, confidential papers only — please, no business documents!

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) offers residents recycling, reuse, and household hazardous waste disposal options in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties. Please visit our website at www.seird.org to learn more about our services. As we are a public recycling district, we do not pay for scrap metal or any other items.

We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

Jefferson Proving Ground
 Building #534
 6556 N. Shun Pike Road
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www.facebook.com/SEIRecyclingDistrict
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Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

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Please recycle after reading.