



# “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 2026  
Quarterly Newsletter

## Out with the Old: Spring Disposal Made Easy



Credit: iamskylinx | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Shun Pike Rd., JPG #534, within the Jefferson Proving Grounds. This location is open during normal business hours and is available to residents from all serviced counties.

Electronics and refrigerant-containing appliances are also accepted year-round at Recycle Centers for a fee. During these events, however, residents may bring a limited number of items at no charge, providing an opportunity to save while properly disposing of materials that require special care.

### FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates

We will host special HHW collections throughout the district in the upcoming months.

#### Spring HHW Schedule:

- **May 2**
  - 8 – 10 a.m.: Franklin County Recycle Center
  - 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Batesville Area Recycle Center
- **May 9**
  - 8 – 10 a.m.: Jennings County Recycle Center
  - 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Scott County Recycle Center
- **May 16**
  - 8 – 10 a.m.: Switzerland County Recycle Center
  - 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Ohio County Recycle Center

#### Summer HHW Schedule:

- **August 1**
  - 8 – 10 a.m.: Franklin County Recycle Center
  - 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Ripley County Recycle Center
- **August 8**
  - 8 – 10 a.m.: Jennings County Recycle Center
  - 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Scott County Recycle Center
- **August 15**
  - 8 – 10 a.m.: Switzerland County Recycle Center
  - 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Ohio County Recycle Center

Residents should note that latex paint is not considered hazardous waste. It should be dried out completely and then placed in the regular trash for disposal.

Have items sitting around your home, basement, or backyard shed that you’re not sure how to dispose of? Whether it’s old paint in the garage, unused electronics, or worn-out tires, many everyday items require special handling and shouldn’t be placed in your regular weekly trash or recycling.

Our annual spring disposal events make it easier for residents to safely and responsibly get rid of these materials while helping protect public health and the environment.

Common items accepted include:

- Tires
- Batteries
- Automotive fluids and filters
- Appliances
- Electronics
- Pharmaceutical waste

We also accept a variety of **household hazardous waste (HHW)** items, including:

- Leftover cleaning supplies
- Oil-based paints
- Fertilizers and herbicides
- Pool chemicals
- Petroleum products
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Thermostats
- Gasoline and fuel additives

SEIRD accepts household hazardous waste (HHW) from residents in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, and Scott counties. Two designated collection days are held each year for all counties, offering residents a convenient opportunity to dispose of these materials safely.

For added flexibility, HHW is accepted year-round at the Jefferson County Recycle Center in Madison, located at 6556 North



Credit: simon2579 | E+ | Getty Images

## Screened Electronics and Refrigerants Collection

### 2026 Amnesty Days

SEIRD is offering Amnesty Days this summer, special events when residents can bring certain items to recycling centers for free, even if they normally would cost a fee. These events often focus on disposing electronic waste items, including things like old TVs, computers, and other devices with screens, to help make it easier to get rid of hard-to-recycle items without charging households.

### Screened Electronics\*

- Batesville: June 5 & 6
- Franklin County: June 5 & 6
- Jefferson County: June 12 & 13
- Jennings County: June 12 & 13

- Ohio County: June 19 & 20
- Ripley County: June 12 & 13
- Scott County: June 25 & 27
- Switzerland County: June 24 & 27

\*Limit 2 per residence

### Refrigerants\*\*

- Batesville: July 10 & 11
- Franklin County: July 10 & 11
- Jefferson County: July 24 & 25
- Jennings County: July 17 & 18
- Ohio County: July 17 & 18
- Ripley County: July 17 & 18
- Scott County: July 23 & 25
- Switzerland County: July 22 & 25

\*\*Limit 1 per residence

## Store Things Safely Until Disposal

Not ready to dispose of certain items just yet? While you wait for a collection event or your next trip to a Recycle Center, proper storage can help prevent spills, accidents, and unnecessary exposure.

Keep these simple tips in mind:

- **Keep items in their original containers:** Labels provide important information about what’s inside and how it should be handled. Avoid pouring materials into different containers, which can lead to confusion or unsafe mixing.
- **Store away from heat and direct sunlight:** Place items in a cool, dry area like a garage, shed, or basement. Heat and sunlight can cause containers to break down or increase pressure inside sealed products.
- **Keep out of reach of children and pets:** Store materials on high shelves or in a secure cabinet whenever possible. Even small amounts of certain products can be harmful if touched or ingested.
- **Check for leaks or damage:** If a container is cracked or leaking, place it inside a secondary container or tray to prevent spills until it can be safely disposed of.

Taking a few extra precautions now can make disposal safer, easier, and more efficient when you’re ready to bring items in.

Questions about how to dispose of common household hazardous waste items? Call the district’s main office at **812-574-4080**.



## Eco-Friendly Spring Cleaning Tips

Credit: Liudmila Chernetska | iStock | Getty Images Plus

Spring is the perfect time to refresh your home and yard, and it doesn't have to cost a lot—or harm the environment. With a few simple strategies, you can make your spring cleaning both economical and eco-friendly.

Here are seven tips to help you get started:

- 1. Use natural cleaning solutions:** Vinegar, baking soda, and lemon can replace many harsh chemical cleaners. They're safe, inexpensive, and effective for most household surfaces.
- 2. Repurpose old items:** Turn worn-out t-shirts into cleaning rags or use glass jars for organizing small items. Refill old soap bottles with new soap instead of buying small bottles. Reusing items reduces waste and saves money.
- 3. Declutter responsibly:** Donate, recycle, or repurpose items you no longer need or use. Ask friends and family to help you sort out your closet or join you to donate your unused items. Avoid simply throwing things away, which adds to landfill waste.
- 4. Conserve water:** When washing windows, floors, or outdoor spaces, use a bucket instead of running water continuously. Minimize laundry loads if possible to reduce energy and water use. Remember: Every gallon counts.
- 5. Choose eco-friendly lawn care:** Compost yard waste and use biodegradable or plant-based fertilizers and herbicides. Avoid overusing chemicals that can harm your lawn, pets, and local waterways.
- 6. Recycle electronics and batteries:** Don't toss old electronics or batteries in the trash. Always check how to properly dispose items and bring them to designated collection sites or participate in mobile HHW events.
- 7. Organize cleaning supplies efficiently:** Keep supplies in reusable containers and purchase concentrates or refillable options whenever possible to cut down on packaging waste.

## Spring into Smart Shredding

As you begin decluttering around the house this year, you may run into several personal documents that you're unsure of how to care for or dispose of if there are several copies. Organizing financial records, bills, and job information can be tricky as you try to find the right balance between recycling responsibly and keeping sensitive information secure.

There are several ways to safely dispose of personal documents. The most environmentally friendly method is to remove and shred only the portions of the

documents containing private information. The remaining, non-sensitive parts can be placed in the recycling. Another option is to white-out or mark over personal data with a permanent marker before recycling. Only shred documents—or portions of documents—that contain private information.

Shredding shortens paper fibers, which is fine for security purposes, but recycling larger pieces of paper keeps the fibers longer and stronger, ready to be made into new paper products. Shredded paper can also be a useful "brown" material, adding carbon to home compost piles. Most printed



Credit: tomprout | E+ | Getty Images

## Before You Toss It: Spring Yard Waste Tips

Spring yard work is in full swing. As warmer weather approaches, it's important to get a head start on maintaining the yard, but there may be some questions on what to do with old items that are no longer usable. Cleaning out sheds, garages, and garden beds often involves coming across leftover products from last season, like half-used bags of fertilizer, old weed killer, or containers of fuel for lawn mowers and trimmers. It might be tempting to toss these items out with the rest of your yard waste, but many of them require special handling and dumping.

Knowing what can and can't go in your regular trash is an important part of spring cleanup. Certain lawn and garden products contain chemicals that can be harmful if disposed of improperly. Taking a few extra minutes to sort these items now can help prevent problems later and make disposal easier when collection opportunities are available.

Items that should NOT go in your regular trash include:

- Fertilizers and weed killers
- Herbicides and pesticides
- Pool and spa chemicals
- Gasoline or mixed fuels used for yard equipment

These materials can be harmful if poured down drains, left on the ground, or thrown away improperly. Instead:

- Set aside any leftover or unwanted products for HHW disposal
- Keep items in their original containers so they can be safely identified
- Store materials in a cool, dry place until you're ready to bring them to a collection event

### Smart spring tips for homeowners

As you sort through old yard items and prepare for the spring and summer seasons ahead, keep these tips in mind to avoid future disposal issues:

- Buy only what you need for the season
- Use up products fully before purchasing more
- Check labels for proper use and storage instructions
- Avoid mixing or combining leftover chemicals

Taking a little extra time during spring cleanup helps keep your home safe and protects your local environment. When in doubt, it's always better to set materials aside and bring them to a proper disposal site.



paper is safe for compost or mulch, except for colored or glossy papers that may contain toxic heavy metals.

When recycling shredded paper, District residents can use their curbside bins or drop it off at our Recycle Centers. **DO NOT** recycle loose shreds. Instead, place shredded paper in a paper bag with the top rolled down or in a clear plastic bag tied shut.

Shred these types of sensitive documents:

- Pay stubs
- Bank statements
- ATM records and voided checks
- Medical or prescription records
- Tax forms
- Legal and insurance documents
- Anything with your Social Security number
- Anything with your credit card account numbers
- Copies of birth certificates, passports, and driver's licenses
- Anything with your signature

Residents of our District can also 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.

Follow our regular recycling guidelines to recycle other types of papers and paper products.

# What Happens After You Drop It Off?

Ever wonder what happens to the things you throw away? It's common not to know where recycled materials end up, or whether or not an everyday recycling habit even makes all that much of a difference. In reality, though, recycling is a very thorough process, but it generates ample amounts of benefits that often go unnoticed. And if done correctly, it can save a lot of resources.



Each type of waste is managed differently, and some items, such as household hazardous waste items, must be treated on their own to neutralize their harmful ingredients, while common recyclable materials like glass, paper, and plastic are recycled elsewhere, such as a Material Recovery Facility, to be separated. Most recycling drop-off centers only accept recyclable materials that are separated, so it's important to be as mindful as possible before you drop off your recyclables. Keeping the common, everyday recyclables separate from the household hazardous waste items and other difficult disposal items is critical in ensuring items get disposed of and recycled safely.

Once separated, these items are usually packaged and shipped to production facilities for the final process of developing them into new, reusable items. These

include post-consumer items. In other words, these items are made of recycled materials. This means that recycled plastics, such as water bottles, can be used to create furniture, backpacks, flatware, fleece clothing, grocery bags, and even ink pens. Recycled aluminum, like your favorite soda can, can be repurposed into new cans, baseball bats, and airplanes. And post-consumer paper can be repurposed into paper towels, greeting cards, toilet paper, and insulation.

So, is recycling *really* worth the effort? In short, yes, it is. Rinsing out an old soda can or breaking down cardboard boxes takes time, but when recycled properly, these items can help our environment run more efficiently by conserving the resources that already exist. So, if you're thinking about quitting your recycling habits, or if you've long wanted to pick them back up, this might be the time to start up again.

# Let's Compost! How to Start Composting This Spring

As the ground softens and the first signs of green return, spring is the perfect time to start composting or refresh your routine if you've done it before. Spring naturally brings an increase in yard waste, from grass clippings to last year's leaves, making it an ideal moment to turn organic material into something valuable instead of sending it straight to the landfill.

Compost is often called "black gold" for a reason. It's a rich, dark, earthy material created when organic matter like food scraps and yard debris breaks down over time. Once compost is finished decomposing, it can be used as mulch or top dressing around flowering plants. And when added to soil, it provides ample benefits. It:

- Improves soil structure, ideal for planting new trees or flowers
- Helps retain moisture, ideal for maintaining plant and vegetation health
- Supports healthier plant growth

Starting a composting habit can make a huge difference to the environment. It may seem like a small act, but it can also be a wonderful motivator to reduce food waste and keep yards clean throughout the year.



## How do I start composting?

Composting requires balance. Successful compost piles rely on a mix of:

- Carbon-rich materials
  - Dry leaves
  - Shredded newspaper
  - Cotton fabric
  - Peanut shells
  - Garden debris
  - Pine needles
- Nitrogen-rich materials
  - Fruit and vegetable scraps

# Every Day is Earth Day

## 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,



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 2026, 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](http://www.seird.org).

- Fresh grass clippings
- Yard trimmings
- Tea bags
- Pet hair
- Manure from herbivores

Note that not everything belongs in your compost. Items to **AVOID** in composting include meat, dairy, oils, pet waste, plastics, and chemicals. These items should **NOT** be added to your compost pile, as they can create odors, attract pests, or contaminate the final product. When in doubt, it's best to leave it out when it comes to composting.

To start composting, you'll need to follow a few key steps.

- 1. Purchase indoor compost containers.** Place a container or two on your kitchen counter and use it for storing table scraps.
- 2. Create an outdoor compost pile.** For outdoors, try a larger container, either

made of wire fencing, cement blocks, or wood, and use it for disposing larger items. Locate it away from high-traffic areas in your yard and away from wooden structures.

- 3. Start your compost pile.** Begin with eight to ten inches of leaves, grass, or plant trimmings. You can also add a one-inch layer of soil or completed compost to help jump-start the decomposition process.

- 4. Wait for the buildup.** Repeat your compost layering process until the pile reaches five feet high. Water each time you add new layers and turn or mix the materials.

Composting is a wonderful habit to incorporate in your spring yardwork. Not only does it benefit your garden by creating healthier soil, but it also reduces overall indoor and outdoor waste and lowers greenhouse gas emissions.

# 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., 12–5 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., 9 a.m.–4:15 p.m.  
 Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

## 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](http://www.seird.org)

## Stay Up to Date

- Visit [www.seird.org](http://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 Recycle Centers located in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties.

## Medication Disposal

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) partners with local police and sheriff's departments throughout our seven-county District to provide year-round pharmaceutical (medication) disposal opportunities for residents. Folks who live in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties can dispose of unwanted medication waste — including expired and unused/unwanted controlled and uncontrolled substances — 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Flushing medications down the drain sends them into the water supply, where they can easily pose a threat to our health and safety.

Proper disposal of medications is easy and FREE, and no questions will be asked. To find the location nearest you, visit our website at [www.seird.org](http://www.seird.org) or call our office.

## Want to Recycle at Your Business?

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](mailto:info@seird.org) or 812-574-4080.

*We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!*

### Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

Jefferson Proving Ground  
 Building #534  
 6556 N. Shun Pike Road  
 Madison, IN 47250  
 812-574-4080

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### Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

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Please recycle after reading.



Credit: LSOphoto | iStock | Getty Images Plus

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](http://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.