

Notice from the Fairfax County Government

October 18, 2019

Glass Recycling Explained Further



- 1.) If you cannot reuse glass containers and you choose not to use the purple containers (pictured above), placing glass in the trash is the best option.
- 2.) It's not mandatory to bring glass to purple bins.
- 3.) Metal lids, labels, and plastic rings can be left on glass jars/bottle.
- 4.) Private haulers have been fully notified of this change and will be making the transition. Some of you heard information to the contrary last week, including from county staff. Private haulers will be following this new guidance, too, but the power to help recycle right is in your hands, not just haulers.
- 5.) Recycling is a global commodities market. We can't control secondary

markets for material. There was no glass market in this area until we installed our glass crusher. Glass was going to a landfill outside Fairfax County and used as alternative cover. Dealing with glass separately reduces contamination in the recycling bin and, if brought to a purple bin, allows glass to be used for more beneficial uses.

6.) We need to preserve what has more value – things like cardboard and metal. Broken glass mixed inside contaminates more valuable recycled materials – and then those items may not be recycled.

7.) We recognize not everyone will be able to bring glass to a purple bin. That's OK. Please dispose of your glass in the regular trash.

8.) We're actively pursuing more locations to host purple containers. County-owned properties were contacted first. Considerations include zoning rules, security, site usage, traffic flows and access.

9.) Curbside glass collection would be extremely expensive, add more truck traffic in neighborhoods, and create more emissions. Other than the county's glass crushing operation, glass has no recycling value in this region.

10.) To learn more about recycling in the county, please read this article we published last year. It includes a graphic showing the flow of recycling and images so you can see what the recycling process looks like:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/adjusting-to-new-recycling-realities-5-ways-you-can-help-stop-wishful-recycling/>

11.) More information on glass recycling challenges in Northern Virginia:
<https://vrarecycles.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/nvrc-policy-GLASS-final.pdf>