

STUDENT RECYCLING FAQs

Does the Homewood Campus have recycling and composting?

Yes! Homewood Campus has had a recycling program in place since 2006 and launched a composting program in 2010. Buildings on the Homewood campus have a hybrid recycling program with separate paper and cardboard recycling collection in blue bins and commingled recycling (metal and plastic) collection in green bins. Composting is available in all residence halls for your food, soiled paper products and plastic compostable cups, plates, and utensils. Residence Halls also have collection bins for electronics (we collect basically anything with a battery or a cord) and Terracycle (which includes energy bar wrappers, empty makeup containers, old pens, and used toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes). Dining areas and most event spaces have compost collection in yellow bins.



What kind of paper should I recycle?

All non-food or beverage related paper should be recycled in the blue bins found on campus, either the small desk side bins or the three bin waste stations in the public spaces on campus. This includes all copy paper (white and color), all types of envelopes, file folders, magazines, newspapers, hard bound books, brown paper bags, post-it notes, cardboard, and paper board (cereal boxes), etc. Staples and paper clips do not need to be removed. Large cardboard boxes should be flattened with packaging materials removed and placed next to the recycling bin. Pizza boxes can be placed next to the recycling bin as well but please make sure it is free of food and any wax paper liners (those things can go in the compost bin).

What kind of metal, plastic, and glass should I recycle?

Metal, such as aluminum and tin food and beverage containers including soda cans, soup cans, clean pie/to-go pans, and foil should be recycled. However, due to change in the recycling market, all glass should now go in the incinerate bin, along with #3-6 plastics. #1 and 2 plastic bottles and jugs can still go in the recycling as long as they are empty.

What materials should be composted?

ALL food items including meat and oil products, coffee grinds, tea bags, compostable plastic food and beverage containers sold in ALL Homewood campus cafes and coffee shops (identifiable by a #7, PLA, “Eco” product, or corn symbol), food related paper products (disposable cups, plates, napkins, to-go containers), and compostable utensils should be placed into the yellow bins.

Why are the to-go containers and utensils in dining locations

The plastics used by Homewood campus cafes and coffee shops are made from corn resin, which is compostable.

So what is left to go in the incinerate bin?

As previously mentioned, #3-6 plastics and glass should now go in the incinerate bins. Additionally, there are several other items that aren't accepted like polystyrene (a.k.a. Styrofoam), film plastics, potato chip bags, candy wrappers, condiment packets, and single brew coffee cups (e.g. Keurig cups), ceramics.

Please note that film plastics like shopping bags, bubble wrap and air pillows used for packaging (like in those many Amazon boxes delivered to your dorm), bread bags, sandwich bags, saran wrap, etc. can be recycled in collection bins in residence halls just not in the regular recycling bin.

Where does waste from the Homewood Campus go?

Once the bags of waste that are collected from the buildings are put outside they are moved to the appropriate dumpster for that type of material then a waste hauler picks takes the dumpster to their processing facility. Use this handy [map](#) to find out where each type of waste stream goes and how it is processed.

What color bin should I use use each material?

The color of the waste receptacle that you use is important, as having contaminated contents (i.e. recyclable plastic mixed in with compostable food items) can reduce the effectiveness of the program and the quality of the downstream material. Outlined below are the colors of the different types of bins on campus and what goes into each one.

Green: #1 and 2 plastic bottles and jugs, and aluminum and tins cans

Blue: Paper, magazine, cardboard, and paperboard

Yellow: Compostable products (including #7 plastics) only

Grey: All other trash

Where can I learn more about campus waste diversion?

Homewood Recycling is also on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). We post lots of helpful recycling tips, fun facts, cool things happening on campus, news, and silly pictures of awesome Hopkins students. We also have a short video on YouTube about where your waste goes after you toss it in a bin. Give it a [watch](#).

Can I compost in the residence halls?

YES!!! Compost bins are now available in all of the residence halls. You will find a yellow bin in the trash rooms, shared kitchens and some common/TV rooms and study rooms.

How can I get more involved with recycling on campus?

Homewood Recycling does employ a small number of students! If you are interested in working with us, please email Leana Houser (lhouser@jhu.edu). Also, we have worked with student groups in the past, including Students for Environmental Action, Real Food Hopkins and Take Back the Tap. If you are a student group interested in collaborating with us, please contact Leana Houser.

What kinds of bins are used to collect waste on campus?

The standard waste stations in academic buildings on campus are narrow, waist height bins that are color-coded and connected with signs attached to indicate what material goes in each bin. They can be found in corridors, staff kitchens/lounges and conference rooms.

Can I compost at events put on by my student group?

Yes you can! In fact, as of July 1, 2016 if you are hosting a zero waste event - one in which all of the items are reusable, recyclable or compostable Homewood Recycling will supply bins at NO charge. Yes that's right for FREE! To request event support, please fill out the request form at least 48 hours prior to your event. Requests made with less than 48 hours notice might not be guaranteed and will not be free. Also, all events sponsored by Residence Life are zero waste events so be sure to compost your disposables at your next RA Program.

Why do custodian mix the trash and recycling bags in the same cart?

Custodians usually have a cart with only one bin so they cannot separate the bags as they collect them for transport outside. However, you will notice that the recycle bags are clear, compost bags are green and the trash bags are black so even though the custodians some times combine them into one cart they are separated at the loading dock.