

Keep Chesterton Beautiful

Litter Reduction & Recycling



Water Quality

It's difficult for many to make the connection between the quality of our surface waters and litter found on the streets and curbs, roadside ditches, and in storm drains. Litter is a pollutant which contaminates the waters we drink from and recreate in. Much of this litter doesn't break down at all or decomposes very slowly and ultimately washes up on our Lake Michigan beaches.

Did you know?

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, also known as the North Pacific Gyre, located between Hawaii and California has been developing since the 1950s. This vast area of floating garbage, made up of 80% plastic, is estimated to be twice the size of Texas and weigh an estimated 3.5 million tons. Toxicity of the plastics and other materials to marine mammals, seabirds, and ultimately fish eating humans is a growing concern. Research is being conducted to fully understand the impacts to human health.

What can I recycle?

Paper: Corrugated Cardboard, Paperboard (such as cereal and tissue boxes), Newspaper & inserts, Mixed Paper, Magazines & Catalogs, Soft Cover Books, Phone Books, Junk Mail, Brown Paper Grocery Sacks, Office & School Paper

Glass: Bottles and Jars

Metal Cans: Aluminum, bi-metal, tin & steel cans

Plastics: All #1 through #7 plastics, including plastic shopping bags

What can't I recycle?

Glass: window glass, plate glass, dishes, ceramics, light bulbs, mirrors.

Hazardous Waste: Motor Oil, non-latex paint, automotive batteries, antifreeze, liquids of any kind.

Wood: pallets, construction lumber, tree or plant branches.

Yard Waste: Grass, leaves, tree or plant branches; if you're a Chesterton resident you can take this waste to the Town's compost drop-off at 1490 Broadway.

Metal: Scrap Metal, Appliances

Automotive: Tires, Engine Parts, Body or Interior Parts

Garbage: Garbage and Food Waste

Plastics: Styrofoam, Vinyl Siding, Swimming Pool Liners, Children's Pools, Motor Oil Containers

Do your part to reduce litter

Put an end to single use bags – use washable reusable bags for your groceries & other shopping needs

Buy products with less packaging and store foods in airtight containers that can be reused.

Recycle, recycle, recycle! Participate in the Town's recycling program.

Compost your organic waste.

Don't use bottled water unless you have to.

Take all household hazardous wastes to the annual collection day.

Pick up your cigarette butts! Cigarette butts leach toxic chemicals, take many years to break down, and are the number one kind of litter found on beaches worldwide.

Where can I recycle?

There are several recycling options for Chesterton residents:

The Town provides 95-gal recycling totes to every residence. If you don't currently have a bin contact the Street Department at 926-2222 to request one.

Paper, cardboard, plastics and glass can be taken to the drop off recycling bins located at Strack & Van Til at 1600 Pioneer Trail, east of SR49. Paper and cardboard can also be recycled at any location with a green and yellow Abitibi bin (Duneland Schools have the bins).

Hazardous household waste (HHW) collection days are held in Chesterton at least once a year.

Recycle Latex Paint at Hopkins Ace Hardware (325 S. Calumet Rd). The program offers latex paint recycling for a minimal per container fee. Contact them at 219-926-3737 for more information.



Storm Water Utility • Water Quality Program

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