

Recycling at 499 Park Avenue Frequently Asked Questions



Q: What Can Be Recycled?

A: Any type of paper, all bottles, cans, glass, cartons, and clean rigid plastics of all shapes.

Paper (clear lined bags)

All paper materials can be recycled and should be placed in your single, deskside bin or in central paper receptacles. All paper includes white office paper, newspaper, magazines, catalogues, colored paper, envelopes, Post-It notes, clean paper bags and file folders.

Not sure if it is paper? If you can tear it, it is probably paper – so go ahead and recycle it!

If it's a paper plate, paper bag, napkin, paper pastry bag or paper food wrapping you can recycle that too – a few crumbs are ok, just make sure it isn't soiled with food and that the materials are dry.

Glass, Metal, Plastic, and Cartons (GMP) (clear lined bags)

All plastic bottles, aluminum cans, glass bottles, and cartons can be recycled and should be placed in designated bins in pantry areas. If you have aluminum foil, plastic cups or plastic food containers it is ok to put them in the GMP bin – just make sure they're clean and/or empty.

Q: What Can't Be Recycled?

A: Food related; non-paper materials should be considered trash.

Trash (black lined bags)

Food related packaging, and non-recyclable food containers should be considered trash, as should plastic wrap, and Styrofoam. These items should be placed in central trash receptacles to reduce odors, deter pests and avoid spills. Please do not place trash materials in deskside bins – the cleaners are instructed not to remove any improperly placed items from any bin.

Q: What about materials that don't fall into the categories above?

A: Materials such as E-waste (computers, TVs, Toner Cartridges), Bulk Waste (textiles, furniture, pallets, etc.), Hazardous+Universal Waste (fluorescent bulbs, ballasts, batteries, oil, etc.) should NOT be placed in any trash or recycling bin. Contact Property Management to arrange for the safe removal of these items.

Q: How do I know that the waste hauler is recycling?

A: The cleaning staff maintains all separation done by employees in tenant spaces. The contents of deskside and central paper bins, and GMP bins are collected into clear bags. All central trash bins are tied off upon collection (so they are not combined with bags of recyclables already collected). All cardboard and bags are taken to the building's waste storage area.

At night, all cardboard, bags of recyclables and bags of trash are placed outside for the waste hauler to collect. The waste hauler sends one truck to collect trash and another truck to collect recyclables. The bags are flattened in truck, but do not break apart. The trucks go to the waste hauler's recycling facility where all bags of trash are removed, and all bags of recyclables are opened for further sorting. Trash bags are not opened for sorting. The cleaner the bags of recyclables are when they get to the facility, the more recyclables can be recovered.

Still have questions about the recycling program? Call Building Management at 212-759-9200 or our Great Forest, Inc. Recycling Consultant at (212) 779-4757.