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The high winds of the past few days are a good reminder of the do's and don'ts of curbside recycling.

If the weather forecast predicts winds higher than 20 miles per hour keep your recycling inside for the next scheduled pick up. Recyclables packed inside a bin that does not have a lid on it will litter the neighborhood when the wind kicks up. When the wind is brisk, emptied recycling bins can blow down the street and into your neighbor's yard.

One green 18-gallon bin is provided for each residence that has a utility account with the City. Recycling is collected once a week. All recyclables must be placed in the bin at the curb by 7 a.m. on your recycling day. If you can fill more than one bin every week, an extra bin can be requested for delivery for \$10 from the Municipal Service Center. Lids are available, at no charge, at the center. Always be sure to write your address on the bottom of your bin and on the inside of your lid to make sure your bin is returned to you if it is lost.

Recycling is easier than ever before via the City's contract with Community Waste Disposal (CWD). No separation of items is required. Toss your plastics, glass, cans, and paper into one bin.

Getting items ready for recycling can be a fun family event. Rinse, flatten, and recycle! All plastic bottles (remove the caps and sprayers) and aluminum drink cans should be rinsed and flattened. CWD will accept plastic with the numbers 1-5 and 7 printed on the bottom. Once a tin/steel food can is opened, rinse it out, place the lid inside the can, and squeeze the can closed. CWD requests that you put the lid inside the can because the jagged edges on a lid can injure the collector.

Aerosol cans can be recycled if the top is pulled off.

CWD will accept all colors of unbroken glass bottles and jars. CWD will not accept broken glass for recycling so as to prevent injury to the collector. If you have broken glass, put it in a box, seal it, and put the box in the trash.

Recyclable paper items, if not placed in the bottom of the bin, must be placed in a paper bag and set on top of your recycling container for collection. CWD will

recycle newspapers (include the slick ad inserts), magazines, catalogs, phone books, office paper, junk mail, box board (cereal boxes and packaging), and corrugated cardboard (flatten the cardboard, but you do not have to cut it up). If you are recycling a large amount of cardboard, bundle and tie it then place it under your recycling bin for collection.

Do not put paper items in your recycle bin if it is raining or rain is predicted. Wet paper mildews and can't be recycled. Remember, if the wind prediction for the day will exceed 15 to 20 mph, it's a good idea to wait until your next collection day or use the drop off site to minimize scattered recyclables in your neighborhood due to high winds.

To protect yourself against identity theft, police encourage you to shred documents that contain personal identifying information such as your name, Social Security number, or credit card number. But, shredded paper can not be recycled because it gets caught up in the conveyors at the recycling plant. Put shredded paper in with your regular trash.

Items that CWD does not recycle include plastic bags, Styrofoam cups and to-go containers (including pizza boxes), lids, caps and sprayers, aluminum foil and pie plates, wet or yellowed newspaper, books, cookware, ceramics, utensils, cups, dishes and glasses, light bulbs and window glass, toys and batteries, plastic containers that contained hazardous materials, and plastics with #6 printed on the bottom.

CWD collects curbside recycling four days a week except on six holidays. Those include New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you have a utility account with the City and can't wait for your curbside recycling day, residents may drop off recyclables at the Recycle and Compost Center, 620 Memorial Plaza (behind Fire Station #2), on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

To find out when your curbside recycling day is and how to get your family involved, call the City of Burleson Recycling Hotline at 817-426-9832 or stop by the Municipal Service Center at 775 S.E. John Jones Dr.