

## Glass Facts

Glass is 100% recyclable and can be recycled endlessly without loss in quality or purity.

Glass is made from readily-available domestic materials, such as sand, soda ash, limestone and "cullet," the industry term for furnace-ready recycled glass.

Recycled glass can be substituted for up to 95% of raw materials.

Manufacturers benefit from recycling in several ways: Recycled glass reduces emissions and consumption of raw materials, extends the life of plant equipment, such as furnaces, and saves energy.

Recycled glass containers are always needed because glass manufacturers require high-quality recycled container glass to meet market demands for new glass containers.

Recycled glass is always part of the recipe for glass, and the more that is used, the greater the decrease in energy used in the furnace. This makes using recycled glass profitable in the long run, lowering costs for glass container manufacturers—and benefiting the environment.

*<http://www.gpi.org/recycling/glass-recycling-facts>*

**For more facts on glass recycling  
visit [www.gpi.org](http://www.gpi.org)**

**To learn more about glass recycling  
visit: [www.hrra.org](http://www.hrra.org)  
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# Separate Glass Recycling

why and how



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## What is the issue with glass?

After your recyclables are picked up at the curb, waste haulers bring the materials to a transfer station. It is then taken to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF). The facility's machines and employees sort the materials using conveyor belts, screens, optical scanners, forced air, and magnets to identify and group materials together. The sorted materials are then bailed and sold to market to be made into a new products.

While it's convenient for residents to mix recyclables in the same bin, the sorting process for mixed recycling isn't perfect. Machines and employees at the MRF cannot remove all the contamination. One of the biggest contaminants is broken glass particles. The pieces of glass attach themselves to paper, cardboard, and other recyclables contaminating the bails and reducing their market value. The glass itself that is sorted is contaminated with bits and pieces of other items such as small pieces of paper, bottle caps, metal, and straws. There is a cost to clean the glass in order for it to be recycled. Most MRF glass is sent to landfills as Alternate Daily Cover (ADC) and is never recycled into a new bottle or jar.

In addition, the glass is hard on equipment, accelerating the wear and tear on conveyor belts, screens and other moving parts.



## What is the solution?

Due to current recycling markets, the cost to accept and process recyclables has increased significantly. In addition, contamination has also increased and has reduced the value of the commodities. In order to address the quality of the recyclables and to manage the increased cost, the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority is implementing a program to recycle glass separate from the mixed recycling stream. This will increase the value of the overall mixed recycling stream and make the separated glass more marketable to be sold and recycled into new bottles and jars.

Glass is a Connecticut state mandated recyclable. All residents, businesses, schools and municipalities must recycle glass.

You may bring your glass to your local participating transfer station or contact a local hauler who provides the service at the curb.

1. Rinse your glass containers and remove lids or caps.
2. Place in a box separate from your mixed recycling bin.
3. Drop-off at your local participating recycling center during operating hours.

*Note: Local transfer stations may require an annual permit to use the facility. Visit your town's website or HRRRA for more information*

## How do I recycle glass correctly?

It is essential that you recycle ONLY acceptable glass. Unacceptable items will contaminate the entire truck load and it will either be rejected or cost your town contamination fees.

