

ONEIDA COUNTY DISPOSAL & RECYCLING GUIDE 2025

With Utica Junk Removal



Welcome to the **Oneida County Disposal & Recycling Guide 2025!** This guide is maintained by a locally owned junk removal company that works daily with Oneida County disposal rules, EcoDrop facilities, and municipal waste programs. Information is based on current county guidelines and real-world cleanout experience.

What Are My Waste Disposal Options?

Oneida County offers a variety of waste disposal options to suit your needs:

Curbside Collection

Curbside collection is the most common method, with scheduled pickups for regular household waste. Check your local municipality's schedule for details.

Drop-off Centers

Drop-off centers provide convenient locations for disposing of larger items, recyclables, and yard waste. These centers are strategically located throughout the county for easy access.

Special Waste Events

Special waste events are held periodically to provide safe disposal of hazardous materials such as electronics, chemicals, and paints. Watch for announcements in your local media.

Composting Programs

Participating in **composting programs** helps reduce waste and create nutrient-rich soil for your garden. Composting bins and educational resources are available through the county extension office.

What Items Can Be Recycled In Oneida County NY?

Accepted Materials:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Plastics (#1 & #2)
- Glass
- Metal Cans

In Oneida County, including Utica and surrounding communities, single-stream recycling accepts paper, cardboard, plastic containers labeled #1 and #2, glass bottles and jars, and metal cans. All recyclable items must be empty, rinsed, and free of residue to meet county recycling standards.

Prohibited Materials:

- Plastic Bags
- Styrofoam
- Food Waste
- Hazardous Materials

Materials such as plastic bags, styrofoam, food waste, and hazardous items are not permitted in curbside recycling because they contaminate the recycling stream. These prohibited materials must be disposed of through approved Oneida County programs, special collection events, or designated drop-off facilities to ensure proper handling.

How Do I Dispose Of Hazardous Waste?

Household hazardous waste in Oneida County must be disposed of through designated collection events or approved drop-off facilities and should never be placed in regular trash or recycling bins. Improper disposal can pose risks to public health, sanitation workers, and the environment. Oneida County offers several options for safe HHW disposal:

- **Scheduled Collection Events:** Periodic events are held to collect HHW from residents. Check the county website for dates and locations.
- **Permanent Drop-off Facilities:** Certain facilities accept specific types of HHW year-round. Contact the facility for details.

Examples of HHW include:

- Paints and solvents
- Batteries
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Electronics (e-waste)
- Automotive fluids

Where Can Residents Recycle Large or Bulky Items?

Large or bulky items in Oneida County, such as furniture, mattresses, appliances, and scrap metal, cannot be placed in curbside recycling and must be handled through bulk pickup, drop-off facilities, or professional junk removal services. The appropriate option depends on item size, weight, and local municipal rules.

You have three main options:

Municipal bulk pickup

Some towns and villages allow residents to set out a small number of bulk items with regular trash, sometimes with a sticker or fee. Check your city or town's website or the "City of Utica Residents" section on ohswa.org for current rules. [Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority+1](#)

Drop-off at EcoDrop

Many bulky items (furniture, scrap metal, appliances) can be dropped at EcoDrop for a fee based on weight.

Hire a junk removal service

For large cleanouts, heavy items, or situations where residents can't transport materials themselves, [professional junk removal services](#) can handle loading, sorting, recycling, donation, and proper disposal based on Oneida County rules.



What If I Have Yard Waste & Compost?

Yard waste in Oneida County is often restricted from landfill disposal and should be composted or taken to approved green waste facilities whenever possible. Proper handling helps reduce landfill use and supports local composting programs.

The Authority operates a **green waste composting program** and allows residents to: [Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority+1](#)

Drop off **bagged or loose yard waste** like leaves, grass, and small branches at designated compost sites or EcoDrop locations (check fee schedule).

Purchase finished compost in bags or bulk for gardens and landscaping.

You can also:

- Start a **backyard compost bin** for leaves, grass, and food scraps (no meat or dairy).

Use wood chips or compost from municipal sites for soil improvement and mulching.

What Are My Reuse & Donation Options?

Usable household items in Oneida County should be donated, reused, or repurposed whenever possible before considering disposal or recycling. Reuse reduces waste and supports local organizations and community programs.

Local Reuse Ideas

Donate usable items (furniture, housewares, clothing, toys) to local thrift stores, churches, and nonprofits.

Look for creative reuse organizations like **Utica Creative Reuse**, which accepts craft and art supplies and promotes reuse for creative projects. [Utica Creative Reuse](#)

Offer items for free or low cost on local Facebook groups, Buy Nothing groups, or online marketplaces.

General rule:

If it's **clean, safe, and useful**, someone else might want it. If it's **broken, dirty, or unsafe**, it should go to the proper disposal or recycling stream.

Quick Reference Cheat Sheet

Curbside Recycling (Single-Stream)

- ✓ Paper, cardboard, mail, boxes
- ✓ Metal cans and lids
- ✓ Glass bottles & jars
- ✓ Plastic bottles, jugs & containers (per local rules)
- ✗ No plastic bags, cords, hoses, holiday lights, scrap metal, batteries, or electronics

Trash / Blue Bags (check local rules)

- ✓ Food waste (unless composting)
- ✓ Non-recyclable plastics & foam
- ✓ Broken household items that aren't hazardous

EcoDrop / Special Programs

- ✓ Electronics (TVs, computers, printers, small electronics)
- ✓ Appliances & scrap metal
- ✓ Tires
- ✓ Bulky rigid plastics & large items
- ✓ Household hazardous waste (seasonal at EcoDrop Utica)
- ✓ Extra recyclables and yard waste

Call a Junk Removal Service

- ✓ Whole-house or estate cleanouts
- ✓ Hoarding situations
- ✓ [Garage](#), [basement](#), and [attic cleanouts](#)
- ✓ Heavy items you can't move safely



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: How do I find my recycling schedule?

A: Recycling and trash pickup schedules vary by municipality. Residents should contact their city, town, or village offices or visit official Oneida County or waste authority websites for accurate scheduling information.

Q: What do I do with large items like furniture?

A: Large furniture should be handled through municipal bulk pickup, EcoDrop facilities, or professional junk removal services, depending on local rules and item size.

Q: Can I recycle plastic bags?

A: No. Plastic bags are not accepted in Oneida County curbside recycling, but many grocery stores offer dedicated plastic bag recycling bins.

Q: Where can I dispose of old electronics?

A: Electronics can be taken to designated e-waste collection events or approved drop-off facilities operated through county or authority programs.

Helpful Links & Contacts

Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (OHSWA) – main site, programs, and guides [Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority](#)

Website: ohswa.org

EcoDrop Facilities – locations, hours, and acceptable materials [Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority+1](#)

“Am I Recyclable?” Tool – search any item to see how to dispose of it properly (on OHSWA website). [Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority](#)

NYS DEC Local Recycling Contacts – regional recycling coordinators and more state-level info [Department of Environmental Conservation](#)

Disclaimer

This guide is provided by [Utica Junk Removal](#) as a helpful community resource.

Rules, hours, and fees can change, so always confirm details directly with:

- Your city, town, or village
- The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (ohswa.org)

