"One Man's Trash..."

Your guide to reducing, reusing and recycling

Southeastern Indiana Recycling District
Serving: Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott & Switzerland Counties

800-997-4793
www.seird.org

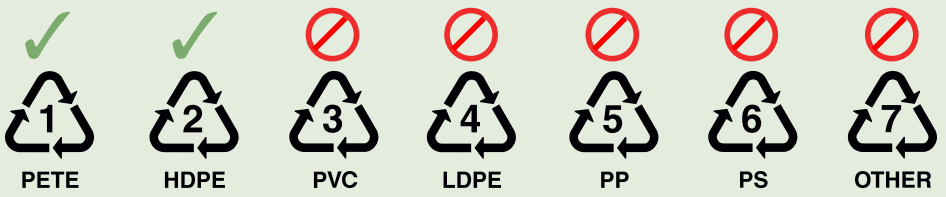
Winter 2019
Quarterly Newsletter

Big changes for plastic recycling

Effective January 1, 2019, the ONLY plastics accepted at all District Recycle Centers will be #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs. All other shapes of #1 and #2 plastics and all #3-#7 plastics of any shape should be thrown into the trash until further notice. Thank you!

In addition to #1 and #2 plastic jugs and bottles, we will continue to accept paper products, cardboard, glass, and cans. Visit www.seird.org for current lists of recyclables.

Plastic Container Guide



Look for these symbols and codes on plastic bottles and jugs.

Thank you, Community Advisory Committee members!

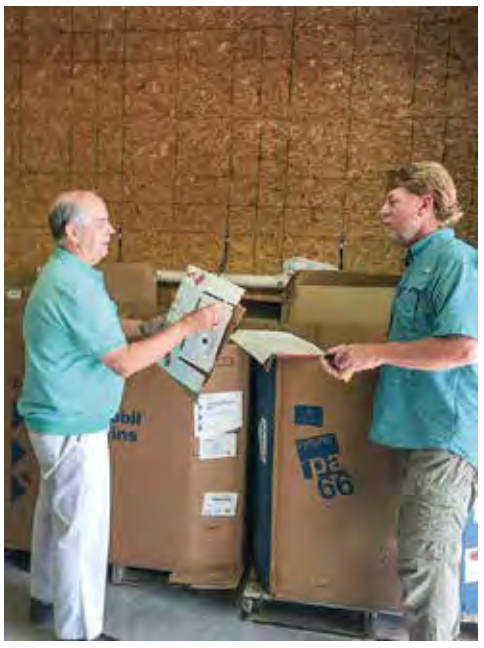
Front row (from left): Millie Martin, Stephanie Hellman, and Marty Mullin
Back row (from left): Mandy Creech, Jared Rogers, Velda Miller, Sara Hare, and Sharon Hansel

Our Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is comprised of residents from each of our district's counties. We meet quarterly to discuss recycling efforts in our seven-county area. These valuable volunteers provide input on the needs of specific communities within the district and assist in providing direction and vision for SEIRD. We also look to our CAC members to participate in community activities when possible and serve as SEIRD ambassadors.

Thank you to these CAC volunteers for their hard work in partnering with us in protecting the earth:

- Aimee Boiman, Ohio County
- Mariah Jade Campbell, Scott County
- Teri Doran, Jennings County
- Sharon Hansel, Switzerland County
- Sara Hare, Jefferson County
- Stephanie Hellmann, Jefferson County
- Jeff Kelley, Scott County
- Mildred "Millie" Martin, Ohio County
- Velda Miller, Ohio County
- Marty Mullin, Franklin County
- Steve Plasse, Scott County
- Jared Rogers, Ripley County

Recycle RIGHT



Recycling quality must improve to meet marketplace challenges

You might have seen recycling in the news lately. Across the country, the demand for recyclables has dwindled because China is no longer taking many materials from the U.S. China's new policy, referred to as the "National Sword," has disrupted markets nationwide. With an oversupply, factories can be very choosy about the articles they accept. Adding to the problem is the current low price of oil, a key ingredient in making new plastic, which has made selling recycled plastic more difficult.

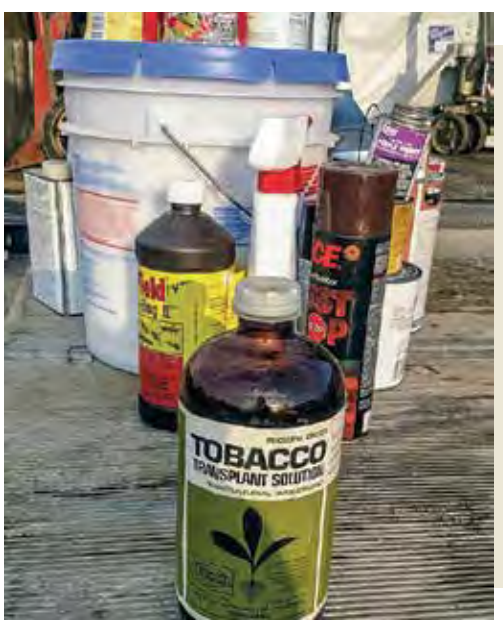
"The deepening impact of China's waste import restrictions is being felt in a growing number of communities," said David Biderman, Solid Waste Association of North America's Executive Director and CEO.

"We can continue to complain about the restrictions and the loss of our largest export market, or we can use innovation, technology, and experience to build a stronger domestic recycling system," Biderman noted.

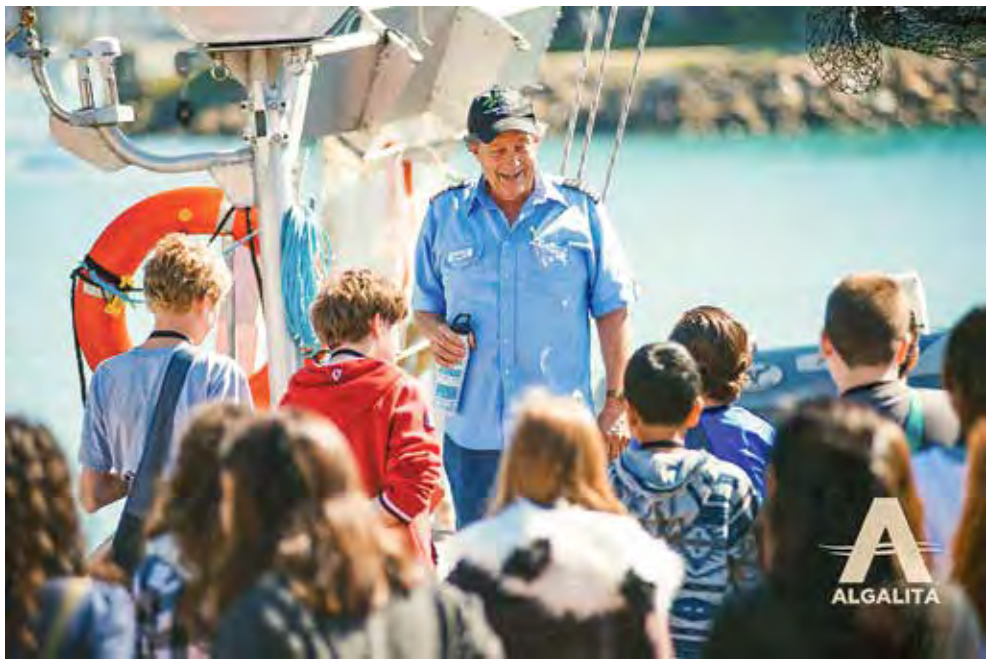
One way to offset the problem is to improve the quality of materials that residents recycle. Currently, recycling contamination is at an all-time high, with levels of contamination over 30% in some areas. In other words, a whopping one-third of the material going into recycling containers doesn't even belong there! Contamination results when the wrong materials and dirty items are placed into recycling bins and carts. We can do better.

To face today's challenging recycling markets, we all need to be recycling better, keeping recyclables clean and contaminant-free. Follow these simple guidelines to create high-quality, market-ready recyclables:

- Recycle these items: paper and cardboard, metal food and beverage cans, glass bottles and jars, and #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jugs.
- Toss other plastics, including those that aren't bottle-shaped and any numbered 3-7, into the trash until further notice.
- Make sure recyclable bottles and containers are empty of any contents, clean of any residue, and dry before placing them into the recycling bin.
- Keep it loose! There is no need to bag your recycling. Simply toss paper, flattened boxes, and containers directly into recycling bins.
- Know what should never be placed in the recycling container! Never mix food waste, clothing, cords, hoses, tissues, paper towels, hazardous waste, or electronics with your paper and containers for recycling. And, please, absolutely NO diapers!



Mobile household hazardous waste collections will resume in April 2019. Watch the spring newsletter or check our website, www.seird.org, for dates and locations. In the meantime, if you have household hazardous waste that needs to be disposed right away, you can drop it off at the Jefferson County Recycle Center (see back page for location and hours).



Captain Charles Moore answers students' questions at a youth summit. (Photos courtesy of Algalita)

Plastic Ocean

A sea captain's chance discovery launches a determined quest to save the oceans

"It was and is a thin plastic soup, a soup lightly seasoned with plastic flakes, bulked out here and there with 'dumplings': buoys, net clumps, floats, crates, and other 'macro debris,'" writes Capt. Charles Moore. He was recalling the first time he noticed what is now called The Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The patch is located in an itinerant area of the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and California known as a gyre and characterized by high atmospheric pressure, with little or no wind and calm seas. He concludes, "Other people had seen what I saw, but I hadn't a clue of this. Looking and seeing are two different things, just as thinking something's wrong is a ways away from trying to make a wrong right."

After first noticing this debris across a thousand miles of ocean in 1997, Capt. Moore began plans for a return trip to quantify the extent of the problem. In 1999, he assembled a scientific team that randomly sampled 3-foot wide strips of the ocean's surface and found that micro-plastic bits outweighed plankton by a ratio of six to one. This showed the potential for plastic ingestion begins at the very lowest rungs of the food chain. In *Plastic Ocean: How a Sea Captain's Chance Discovery Launched a Determined Quest to Save the Oceans*, Moore and his co-author, Cassandra Phillips, combine two narratives. The first story is that of plastic in our modern economy, including how it evolved and grew into something that permeates every facet of life. The second thread is more of a detective story. It follows Capt. Moore as he collects data, references other people's research, and forms alliances to combat the increasing quantity of plastic debris in the marine environment.

The authors provide a whirlwind tour of "rock oil" and its by-products. As whale oil became expensive and scarce, crude oil and its derivatives were seen as a potential replacement to serve the illumination and lubrication needs of the 19th century. Some of these by-products made natural rubber more elastic and useful. Later, entirely synthetic products were produced from oil. By the early 1920s, 8.8 million pounds per year of Bakelite, an early plastic, found its way into electrical insulators, automobiles, home appliances, pens, and jewelry.

But, according to Moore, "This story has never been only about plastics. It's about an epic shift from austerity and frugality to abundance and profligacy." He documents the "Invention of Throw-Away Living," a process that started during the Second World War and accelerated through the 1950s and '60s. Plastic products were cheap, durable, and lightweight, perfect for packaging and disposable products. "With disposability comes litter," says Moore, "litter being errant eyesore garbage."

Moore was not the first to study marine debris and its effects on wildlife. He reviews findings from the 1960s documenting that marine mammals, turtles, and many seabird species are frequent victims of entanglement and/or ingestion of plastic. While these events are tragic and provide the kind of photographic images that can stir public opinion into action, Moore connects the dots that show potential danger to our food supply. He cites evidence that plastics can act as sponges, soaking up toxins. If plastic particles outnumber plankton, the lowest rung of the food chain, then those particles are eaten by larger organisms which commonly consume plankton. These creatures are, in turn, eaten by even larger animals. Eventually, these particles and any toxins they may carry will be consumed by the species we find on our dinner plates.

"The base of the marine food chain is being displaced by a non-digestible, non-nutritive component that is actually outweighing and in some cases out-numbering the natural food." This is the message Moore carried to the world in the decade after initial publication of his research in the *Marine Pollution Bulletin* in 2001. Later trips to the Pacific revealed the ratio of plastic to plankton can range higher than the six to one ratio observed in 1999. In 2009, it was 26 to one. Moore writes, "Our plastic footprint may be causing more immediate harm to sea creatures than our 'carbon footprint.'"

What to do with online packaging

Credit: William_Potter | iStock | Getty Images Plus

You've taken advantage of the convenience of online ordering. The gifts were a hit, but now the holidays are over and you are left with a huge stack of boxes and packing materials. Before tossing boxes into the recycle bin, please first consider how you might reuse them instead. Free online marketplaces like Freecycle, Craigslist, or Nextdoor often allow you to connect with neighbors who are moving and need boxes. When efforts at reuse are exhausted, here is what to do with what remains:

- Cardboard shipping boxes should be recycled. Please flatten the box before recycling.
- Receipts you don't wish to save can only be recycled if they are printed on regular paper. If the paper is coated or shiny, it is thermal paper and not recyclable. Receipts printed on large stickers are also not accepted. Shred any receipts containing credit card numbers or personal information.
- Deflated plastic packing pillows, bubble wrap, and plastic mailing envelopes can be recycled in the same way you would recycle plastic bags and other plastic film. Collect the bags and film in your house and then drop them off for recycling at grocery or department stores that offer recycling bins. To find a film drop-off recycling location near you, go to Plasticfilmrecycling.org. Check out this same website to see all of the types of plastic bags and films they accept.
- Packing peanuts are typically made of expanded polystyrene foam and are not accepted for recycling. These are often accepted at your local package shipping store for reuse. Call ahead to make sure they are currently accepting the items you have.

Credit: SanderStock | iStock | Getty Images Plus

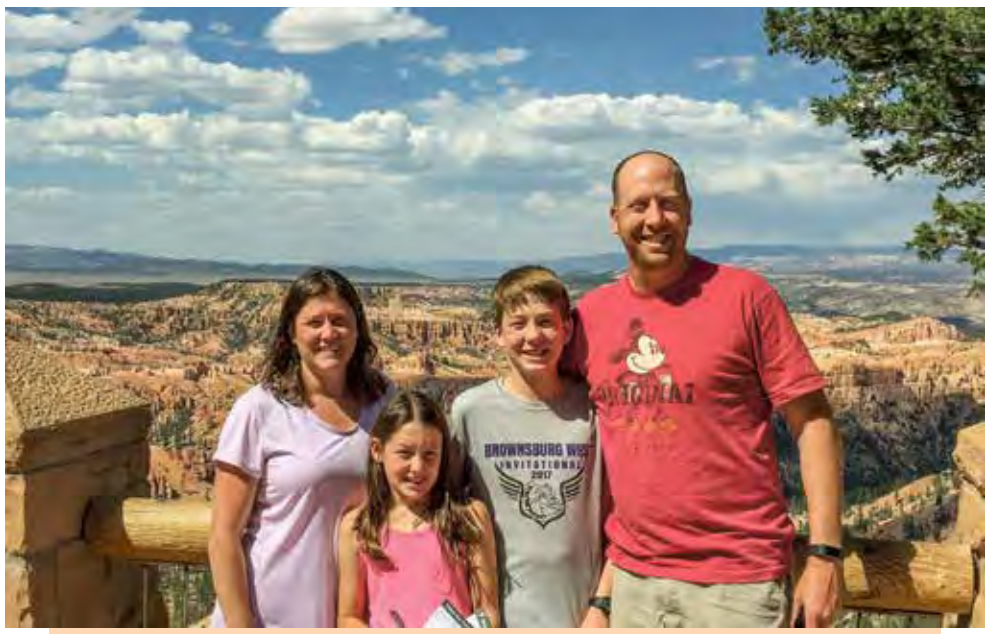
"THERE'S A LOT OF OPTIMISM IN CHANGING SCENERY, IN SEEING WHAT'S DOWN THE ROAD."

~ CONOR OBERST

Weighing our options

In *Plastic Ocean*, Moore and Phillips propose that we evaluate and label products based on these six criteria:

- Closed loop recyclability: How easy is it to recycle this product?
- Extended replacement time: How long will this product last?
- Reduced maintenance time: Is the product maintenance-free?
- Potential number of products replaced or made obsolete: Does this product eliminate the need for a lot of other products?
- Raw material extraction stress: Is the product 100% post-consumer material?
- Nontoxic status: Are the components benign from a biological perspective?



Last summer, the Kendrick family explored our national parks and traveling with NO trash.

Indiana family takes trashy vacation

Nine-year-old Addie and her 13-year-old brother Nathan were more than a little skeptical about their summer vacation. "Most of the time, having teachers for parents is great, but sometimes it's just strange," commented Nathan, remembering how he felt at the time.

Their parents, Indiana school teachers Josh and Samantha Kendrick, use every day as an opportunity for teaching and learning. So, when the couple discovered that the average American family of four produces about 18 pounds of garbage every single day, they felt compelled to investigate. They weren't sure that they, their family, students, or community could fully appreciate exactly how that trash was adding up or what could be done about it.

Lucky for us, their curiosity motivated Josh, a seventh-grade teacher. He applied for and received a $12,000 Teacher Creativity Fellowship grant from the Eli Lilly Endowment to allow his family to travel across the country visiting national parks and collecting and measuring all of the trash they accumulated during their month-long summer vacation. Josh imagined that contrasting the beauty of the national parks to their stinky, nasty trash might provide the insight and incentive needed to create change.

"I desperately wanted for us and everyone to understand the need to waste less — a lot less," noted Josh.

The family began their cross-country journey early last June and logged their experiences on the blog, "Travel in NO Trash." The plan was to drive their minivan from Brownsburg, Indiana to Yosemite National Park in California and back, visiting at least 11 national parks in 31 days. All the while, they planned to experience first-hand, up close, and personal the trash they were producing during that month. For the first 10 days, they intended to keep all of their trash in the car with them. And, for the final 21 days, they were going to attempt to create no waste at all — or at least as little waste as possible. Along with typical vacation gear, they packed bins to store trash and sort it into categories (recyclable, compostable, and landfill). Then, they set off.

As you might imagine, not long into their journey, the bins began to fill — quickly — and the minivan started to stink. During this time, this average American family enjoyed snacks in the car, got fast food, ate at restaurants, and visited the free breakfast buffets at the hotels where they stayed. They kept all of the resulting trash: chip bags, disposable fast food cups and wrappers, empty yogurt containers, leftover food from meals, and more. The family had planned to spend the first 10 days like many vacationers, paying little or no attention to their waste. But that waste was piling up.

"For most of us, we throw trash 'away,' but for us, 'away' meant the bins in the back of the minivan," commented Samantha.

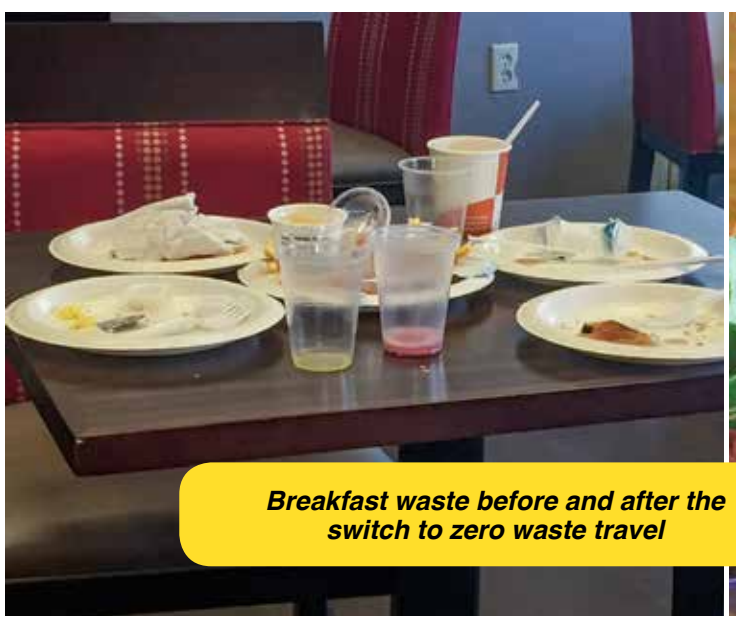
Only a day or two into the trip, they realized they were going to need to cut down on their waste or they wouldn't have space to sit or air to breathe. Even so, during those first 10 days, they accumulated and carried with them about 25 pounds of trash. On day 11, they joyously disposed of everything, placing it into compost, recycling, and landfill bins near Grand Teton National Park.

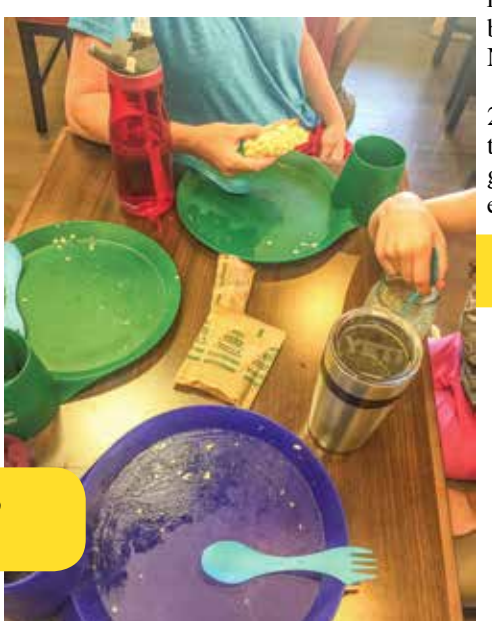
For the remaining 21 days of their trip, they tried their best to go zero waste, and their efforts were successful. Using reusable plates, cups, bowls, cutlery, napkins, and containers, they managed to produce just 3 pounds of trash in 21 days!

The Kendrick family learned a lot from their month-long journey and hopes that others can be inspired by the lessons they learned. Addie and Nathan agreed, "It was life-changing."

"By the end of the trip, we were producing a lot less waste, and it wasn't that difficult," noted Josh. He hopes other people will follow his lead. "If we all pitch in together, the world we leave our children will be a better place."

Visit their blog to virtually follow their journey with photos, experiences, and informative videos as they traveled across the country visiting parks and realizing just how much waste they created and how to reduce it. "Travel in NO Trash" can be found online at https://travelinnotrash.blogspot.com/.





Breakfast waste before and after the switch to zero waste travel

Keeping Count

Family members	4
Days on the road	31
States visited	15
Parks and monuments visited	17
Miles logged on the minivan	8,441
Animals seen	At least 700
Pounds of trash produced in first 10 days	25
Pounds of trash produced in last 21 days	3
Pounds of food waste composted over 31 days	40
Lessons learned	Infinite

You are a partner in safety

Of 132 fatalities in the solid waste industry during 2017, 94 involved a customer or member of the public. When you visit a drop-off center, transfer station, materials recovery facility, household hazardous waste center, or landfill, be aware of the risks related to heavy equipment, other vehicles, and traffic flow. To avoid collisions, do not speed around other vehicles or move into their blind spot. When in your vehicle, be cautious of pedestrians on the site. When outside of your vehicle, be aware of other vehicles moving around the facility.

Never scavenge in the waste for reusable items. In addition to sharp and heavy objects, municipal solid waste can include rotting organic material that can spread bacterial infections. While medical waste and household hazardous waste should not be included with trash or recyclables, mistakes are sometimes made. There may be medical sharps or toxic, caustic, or flammable liquids mixed in with any pile at the site.

A variety of people use these facilities: collection haulers, community members like you in a personal vehicle, or contractors with construction and demolition debris. If you are entering the facility for the first time, a little preparation can make the process go smoothly and safely for you and everyone else on site.

Before you go, you will probably check the facility website or Facebook business page for hours of operation and accepted materials. While you are at the website, look for a facility map and any safety guidance that might be provided. Most facilities prohibit scavenging, smoking, and speeding.

As you enter the site, look for signs that communicate directional and safety guidance. Ask gatehouse staff or other workers on site about customer safety policies as you enter the property. While you are at the facility, avoid distractions like texting, talking on the phone, adjusting your entertainment system, or programming your GPS.

Take responsibility for your own safety. In order to protect yourself and your vehicle, you have to be willing to be a partner in the process.

SEIRD Recycle and Reuse Centers

Batesville Area Recycle Center
616 John Street, Batesville
Phone: 812-801-9099
Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 1–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Franklin County Recycle and Reuse Center
9076 Landfill Road, Metamora (located off of U.S. Highway 52, west of Brookville)
Phone: 765-647-6710
Recycle Center Hours: Mon.–Sat., 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.–noon

Jefferson County Recycle Center
6556 N. Shun Pike Road, Building #534, Madison (inside Jefferson Proving Ground)
Phone: 812-574-4080
Hours: Mon.–Fri., 7 a.m.–3 p.m.*; 2nd and 4th Sat., 8 a.m.–noon
*The center stays open until 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.

Jefferson County Reuse Center
6511 N. Meridian Road (inside Jefferson Proving Ground), Madison
Phone: 812-801-7012
Hours: Tues. and Thurs., noon–5 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Jennings County Recycle and Reuse Center
4800 State Road 3, North Vernon (behind county garage)
Phone: 812-352-0800
Recycle Center Hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., 8 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Reuse Center Hours: Wed. and Fri., 1–6 p.m.; Sat., 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Ohio County Recycle and Reuse Center
1432 Barbour Way, Rising Sun
Phone: 812-801-9037
Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 1–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Ripley County Recycle and Reuse Center
2710 N. Hasmer Hill Road, Osgood
Phone: 812-609-4371
Recycle Center Hours: Mon., 8 a.m.–3 p.m.; Tues. and Thurs., noon–6 p.m.; Fri., 8 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon (closed Wed. and Sun.)
Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs., noon–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Scott County Recycle and Reuse Center
4689 Double or Nothing Road, Scottsburg
Phone: 812-752-8474
Recycle Center Hours: Mon.–Fri., 9 a.m.–3:45 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Switzerland County Recycle, Building Materials Reuse Center and Reuse Store
19 McCreary Ridge Road, East Enterprise
Phone: 812-599-3751
Recycle and Building Materials Reuse Center Hours: Mon. and Wed., noon–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon
Reuse Store Hours: Mon. and Wed., noon–5 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

For more information:
www.seird.org

No space for holiday gifts?

Donate items to our Reuse Centers!

What is even better than recycling? Reusing, of course! Why is that? Simple —items that are reused as is or repurposed, don't need to be reprocessed, aren't typically shipped long distances, and don't require any newly mined or harvested resources. Reuse keeps items out of landfills and utilizes both resources and energy more efficiently.

The District Reuse Centers give residents of our seven counties the opportunity to donate items they no longer want and pick up those that they need. The centers are located in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties. A Building Materials Reuse Center is also available at the Switzerland County Recycle Center in East Enterprise.

Clean, gently used items in good condition can be dropped off during the centers' normal business hours. Clothing, shoes, books, office supplies, videos/CDs, knickknacks, and non-upholstered furniture are just a few of the items that are accepted.

The SEIRD Building Materials Reuse Center in East Enterprise can accept a variety of items, including fixtures, windows, doors, sinks, nails, tools, building supplies, and more.

All county residents can "shop" in their county Reuse Center once a week during a 20-minute visit. Four items, five books, and unlimited amounts of clothing are available at no charge. Two units per week can be obtained from the Building Materials Reuse Center at no charge. Reuse Center merchandise is for personal use only and should not be resold.

Our Reuse Centers are the perfect way for residents to save money, preserve natural resources, and conserve energy.

Reuse Center hours and locations are listed above. For more information, visit www.seird.org.

What to do with leftover paint

We get a lot of calls about leftover paint. So, chances are, you have some old paint sitting in your basement, garage, or utility room. Do you know what to do with paint that you don't need?

Latex paint is not hazardous waste. Latex paint is a water-based product and does not contain oil or chemical solvents. **We do not accept latex paint since you have other safe and appropriate disposal options.**

If you cannot use up the paint or give it away, the best option is to dry out the latex paint and dispose of the dried-out paint and can in your household trash. If there is just a small amount of paint in the can, leave the lid off until the paint has dried. With cans that are one-third to two-thirds full, add kitty litter, sawdust, or shredded paper and leave the lid off of the can. Allow the paint to harden. In both cases, be sure that the open paint can is not accessible to children or pets. After the paint is dried and hardened in the can, dispose of the can and lid in the trash.

For full cans or larger amounts of paint, call our office at 800-997-4793 or 812-574-4080, or visit our website, www.seird.org, for additional tips on drying and disposal.

Remember — enamel, which is oil-based paint, and paint thinner are hazardous waste. Dispose of those items through the District's household hazardous waste program.

Credit: kMickey | iStock | Getty Images Plus

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) offers residents recycling, reuse, and household hazardous waste disposal options in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties. Please visit our website at www.seird.org to learn more about our services. As we are a public recycling district, we do not pay for scrap metal or any other items.

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

Southeastern Indiana Recycling District
Jefferson Proving Ground
Building #534
6556 N. Shun Pike Road
Madison, IN 47250
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mandy@seird.org • www.seird.org

Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

@SEIRD_

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Please recycle after reading.