

# Recycling Frequently Asked Questions

1. What has happened to our recycling program? Why did HAAF Recycling Center close?
2. What does Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield recycle?
3. How do I know what plastics are recyclable?
4. What does commingled mean?
5. What is the Fort Stewart Processing Station?
6. What is considered contamination in the recycling containers?
7. What do I do with the new blue cart that I received in Family Housing?
8. I live in Family Housing, what do I do with my cardboard?
9. What do I do if my motor pool, admin building, etc... generates a large amount of cardboard?
10. Why does paper need to be separated from the other recyclables before it is recycled?
11. Why are my motor pool, office, etc... recyclables not picked up anymore?
12. Can I recycle my Privacy Act (PA) and "For Official Use Only" (FOUO) documents in the blue recycling bin?
13. I generate files that have to be held 3 years before they can be destroyed. Each year I have numerous cases that I have to dispose of and it is too much to shred. How can I get rid of these documents and still protect the information?
14. What do I do with out-dated manuals?
15. What do I do with my scrap metals and wooden pallets?
16. What do I do with my old battery out of my car?
17. What do I do with my old POV tires?
18. Are my old glass dishes (cups and plates) recyclable?
19. Are my old metal pots and pans recyclable?
20. Can I put my empty oil cans in the blue dumpster?
21. Who do I call if I have a recycling question?
22. Who do I call if I have a question regarding dumpster collection?
23. Who do I call if I have questions concerning Family Housing recycling or trash collection?
24. Is recycling mandatory on Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield?
25. Why are they dumping my Family Housing recyclables in a trash truck?

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## What has happened to our recycling program? Why did HAAF Recycling Center close?

Because of a DOD mandate that requires Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield to reduce what we dispose of by 40%, it was necessary to make major changes to our previous recycling program. This included changes in personnel, equipment, facilities, location and the process itself. These changes impacted almost every aspect of our current recycling program making it impossible to continue our full operation. Once all the new changes and improvements are completed, our program will resume and we hope everyone will give it their full support.

As for the Hunter Army Airfield recycling center, it has reopened as a recycling processing center. Almost all recycle materials from Hunter Army Airfield will be transported to Fort Stewart for processing and sale. It is located off of North Perimeter Road and Westley Avenue.

**[Back to Top](#)**

---

### **What does Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield recycle?**

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield recycle: cardboard, newspaper, magazines, office paper, junk mail, plastic #1 (PETE) and plastic #2 (HDPE), aluminum and steel cans, glass (clear and colored), scrap metals (aluminum, copper, brass, stainless steel, iron, tin, etc...), usable pallets, white goods (appliances) and toner cartridges.

**[Back to Top](#)**

---

### **How do I know what plastics are recyclable?**

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Recycling program accepts plastic #1 (PETE), #2 (HDPE) and #5 (PP) Polypropylene. Almost all plastic products have an emblem and a number stamped somewhere on the item. This can usually be found on the bottom of the product. The emblem is always three arrows forming a triangle. Inside the triangle, is a number that represents the grade of plastic the product is made from. The numbers can range from 1 to 7. At this time, you are required to recycle anything with the number 1 or 2 inside the arrows. (See samples below).



**[Back to Top](#)**

---

### **What does commingled mean?**

It means that you can place your recyclable items mixed together in the same blue recycling container. The products will be separated and sorted at the Processing Station by recycle

workers and not by the customer. The only thing that cannot be mixed is paper products. You place all paper products inside a plastic bag and tie the top closed before placing it into the blue recycle containers. Remember to shred all Privacy Act and "For Official Use Only" documents before they are placed in recycle containers.

**[Back to Top](#)**

---

### **What is the Fort Stewart Processing Station?**

The Fort Stewart Processing Station is a centralized location for sorting and processing commingled recyclable materials. Trucks dump in a central location known as a tipping floor. From there the mixed recyclables are placed in a hopper, where a conveyor moves the materials up through a processing line where they are separated. These sorted materials are then prepared for shipment and sale by crushing, shredding and baling.

**[Back to Top](#)**

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### **What is considered contamination in the recycling containers?**

This is when unacceptable material is placed in recycling containers or bins. For example, grass clippings or trash mixed with recyclables would be a type of recycling contamination. Another example of contaminated recyclables would be a paper plate that has been used and is saturated with food waste.

**[Back to Top](#)**

---

### **What do I do with the new blue cart that I received in Family Housing?**

Until recently, all Family Housing occupants had separate bags and were required to place their cans in one, paper in one, glass in one, etc... These bags have now been replaced with new blue poly carts. With these carts, you no longer have to separate your recyclables. All recyclable materials can be placed in the blue cart mixed together, with the exception of paper products. During the week, you should collect all your paper products (i.e., junk mail, newspaper, office paper, magazines, books, etc...) and put them in a clear plastic bag. On the day the truck collects your recyclables; you should tie the top of the bag closed and place it in the blue cart with the other materials. Remember, never place yard trash or household waste in the recycle cart or recyclables in your trash cart. If this happens your carts will not be emptied and your unit commander will be notified.

[Top of the Document](#)

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### **I live in Family Housing, what do I do with my cardboard?**

Such things as shoe boxes, cereal boxes and the like are a type of cardboard. These and the occasional small cardboard box can be crushed flat or broken down and placed inside the cart with the other recyclables if there is room. Larger amounts of cardboard should be broken down flat and placed beside your cart next to the curb on your collection day. For newly arriving occupants that have just moved in say on Tuesday and your collection is on Mondays, if you will call the Waste Management Section at 767-8880 we will try and assist you in some way.

[Back to Top](#)

---

### **What do I do if my motor pool, admin building, etc... generates a large amount of cardboard?**

Contact the Waste Management Section at 767-8880 or 767-6237 and we will try to provide some type of assistance to resolve your problem.

[Back to Top](#)

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### **Why does paper need to be separated from the other recyclables before it is recycled?**

There are several reasons for this, one of which is to keep the paper products from becoming contaminated with liquids/drippings from beverage containers and other liquids in the collection containers and vehicle. Contaminated paper can introduce impurities and bacteria, which will decrease market value. Another reason is that there are so many different grades and types of paper that it requires a separate sorting location of its own. Once a load of commingled recyclables are dumped at the processing station, the bags of paper are pulled out and sent to the paper sorting table where the materials are sorted by category. Please place all paper products in a plastic bag with the top tied closed before placing it inside your blue container (cart or dumpsters) for collection.

[Back to Top](#)

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### **Why are my motor pool, office, etc... recyclables not picked up anymore?**

Recycling personnel that previously collected materials from motor pools, administrative buildings, etc... are now working the sorting line at the Processing Station.

**[Back to Top](#)**

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### **Can I recycle my Privacy Act (PA) and "For Official Use Only" (FOUO) documents in the blue recycling bin?**

Yes, but you must first shred all PA and FOUO documents and place them inside a clear plastic bag and tie the top closed before placing them inside the dumpster.

**[Back to Top](#)**

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### **I generate files that have to be held 3 years before they can be destroyed. Each year I have numerous cases that I have to dispose of and it is too much to shred. How can I get rid of these documents and still protect the information?**

Contact the Waste Management Section at 767-8880 or 767-6237 and we will assist you with proper disposal of these items.

**[Back to Top](#)**

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### **What do I do with out-dated manuals?**

If you have a small amount of manuals, place them in a plastic bag with the rest of your paper products, tie the top closed and place it in the dumpster. If you have a large quantity (cases of manuals) take them to the Processing Station (Building 1384).

**[Back to Top](#)**

---

### **What do I do with my scrap metals and wooden pallets?**

For now, all scrap metal and wooden pallets generated at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield must be taken to the Fort Stewart Recycling Center located on Kilpatrick Road of BLDG 1384 (Building 1384). Units from HAAF will be able to take their metal and pallets to the HAAF Recycling Center on Duncan Drive (Building 1412).

**[Back to Top](#)**

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### **What do I do with my old battery out of my car?**

Because automobile batteries are a hazardous waste, you are required to turn them in to the vendor where you purchased your new battery. In most cases, you will receive a \$5.00 credit on your new battery. If you have an old automobile battery that you need to dispose of that cannot be turned in to a retailer, call the Waste Management Section at 767-8880 or 767-6372 for assistance. Lead acid batteries are a hazardous waste, so DO NOT dispose of them in dumpsters or landfills.

**[Back to Top](#)**

---

### **What do I do with my old POV tires?**

When purchasing new tires, the dealer charges a \$2.00 disposal fee for each tire. The customer should leave their old tires with the dealer for disposal. If you have old tires that need to be disposed of, call the Waste Management Section at 767-8880 or 767-6372 for assistance. Tires are prohibited in dumpsters and in the landfill.

**[Back to Top](#)**

---

### **Are my old glass dishes (cups and plates) recyclable?**

No. These items have no recycling value.

**[Back to Top](#)**

---

### **Are my old metal pots and pans recyclable?**

Yes. Place your old pots and pans in your blue recycling cart or blue recycling dumpster to be sold as scrap metal.

**[Back to Top](#)**

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## **Can I put my empty oil cans in the blue dumpster?**

No. Empty POL containers must be triple-rinsed and taken to the Hazardous Waste Turn-In Facility (Building 1157) for inspection.

**[Back to Top](#)**

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## **Who do I call if I have a recycling question?**

If you have questions regarding recycling or want to report that a blue recycling dumpster is overflowing call the Waste Management Section at 767-8880 or 767-6237.

**[Back to Top](#)**

---

## **Who do I call if I have a question regarding dumpster collection?**

If you want to report that a brown trash dumpster is overflowing call the GSI Work Reception desk at 767-2883.

**[Back to Top](#)**

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## **Who do I call if I have questions concerning Family Housing recycling or trash collection?**

If you have questions regarding trash or recycling collection in the Family Housing area call the Services Section at 767-4972.

**[Back to Top](#)**

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## **Is recycling mandatory on Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield?**

Yes. Recycling is mandatory and enforced by the Command Policy letter.

**[Back to Top](#)**

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## **Why are they dumping my Family Housing recyclables in a trash truck?**

Under the new system, the Family Housing collection contractor is responsible for the collection of trash and recyclables in the Family Housing areas at HAAF and Fort Stewart. Both trash and recyclables are collected using trash trucks; however they are collected separately on different trucks. All recyclables collected from the Family Housing areas will be transported to the Fort Stewart Processing Station.

**[Back to Top](#)**