



## Recycling: It's the Law

Enacted in 1988, Act 101, officially known as the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act was designed to promote recycling and waste reduction in Pennsylvania. It mandates that municipalities with a population of 10,000 or more, or a population density of 300 people per square mile are required to adopt ordinances that mandate recycling. That means that every single-family home, apartment and condominium complexes, commercial establishments, and anyone holding events in that municipality must recycle.

Manheim Township Ordinance No. 1998-18 § 421-22(A-C) states the following:

- A. "All regulated municipal waste and recyclables shall be drained free of liquids before storage."
- B. "All persons within the Township are required to source-separate all designated recyclable materials."
- C. "All cans, bottles or other food containers shall be rinsed free of food particles and drained for storage."

Residents can view all Township ordinances by visiting our website, Codified Code of Ordinances/Planning & Zoning Ordinances at:

[www.manheimtownship.org/873/Code-of-OrdinancesPlanning-Zoning-Ordina](http://www.manheimtownship.org/873/Code-of-OrdinancesPlanning-Zoning-Ordina)

In our next issue, we will discuss the responsibilities of our registered trash haulers.

## Did You Know?

Manheim Township submits a yearly 904 Grant, also known as the Recycling Program Performance Grant to the Department of Environmental Protection. This grant awards funds to local governments based upon the total tons of eligible materials recycled in their municipality along with the applicant's recycling rate. Materials include post-consumer corrugated cardboard, glass, steel and aluminum cans and plastic bottles you place in your recycling bin each week. These materials are then collected by registered haulers from residents, schools, businesses, colleges, apartment and condo complexes, and events within our Township.

What does this mean for you and the Township? The more you recycle, the more grant money provided to the Township to improve our recycling initiatives.

## What Goes in My Curbside Recycle Bin?

- Plastic bottles & jugs with necks
- Metal food and beverage cans
- Glass jars & bottles
- Corrugated cardboard (Ex: Delivery boxes)
- That's it!

Rinse all jars, bottles, jugs and cans so they are free from any debris or contaminants before placing them in your bin. If recyclables aren't clean when they arrive at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), they will not be recycled and will end up in the landfill.

When in doubt, throw it out! It's better to throw out one questionable item then to contaminate all of your recyclables.



## Street Sweeping Fun Fact

After two rounds of sweeping our Township roads, our new street sweeper has removed a total of 422,752 pounds or 211 tons of debris. This is material that would have ended up in our storm drains and ultimately in our waterways.

## Protecting Our Community Through Stormwater Management

Have you ever noticed water pooling on streets after heavy rain or seen debris wash into storm drains? That water, known as stormwater, doesn't just disappear, it flows through our local stormwater system and eventually into streams, rivers, and bays. How we manage stormwater has a direct impact on the health of our community and environment.

Stormwater can carry pollutants like oil, fertilizers, and trash from roads and yards into waterways. This can harm fish, plants, and water quality. It can also cause flooding, damage roads, and increase maintenance costs for our Township.

Our Public Works Department works year-round to maintain over 270 miles of stormwater pipes, catch basins, and retention ponds. Regular inspections, cleaning, and repairs help prevent blockages and flooding. We also plan long-term improvements to protect neighborhoods from stormwater impacts and reduce maintenance costs.



### How Can You Help?



You play a big role in keeping stormwater clean:

- Dispose of waste properly: Never dump paint, chemicals, or yard debris into storm drains.
- Maintain your property: Keep leaves, grass clippings, and trash out of gutters and storm drains.
- Use water wisely: Reducing runoff from irrigation and washing cars on grassy areas helps prevent excess stormwater flow.

By working together, we can protect our local waterways, reduce flooding, and keep our neighborhoods safe and beautiful.



## Recycling Q & A

**Q:** As I've traveled to other counties, I've seen that they recycle more items than we do here in Manheim Township. Why can't we recycle more than we do?

**A:** For a material to be recyclable, there must be a demand for the material and a cost-effective way to transport and transform it into a new product. Many recycling programs struggle to find markets for certain materials, so they limit their programs to accepting what they can recycle without a significant financial loss. Some communities can accept a wider range of recyclable materials because they are closer to recycling markets, have specialized sorting equipment, or have made a conscious decision to subsidize their recycling programs. -

*DEP, Bureau of Waste Management*

## Craft Corner Art from Discarded Items



Created by Public Works Employee,  
**Matt Robertson**

- A snail made from a bearing race and round rod.
- Flower made from a piston and concrete nails.
- Bird made from old metal strips.
- Table made from a VW bug steering wheel.