

GLASS RECYCLING FACTS

WHILE THIS ARTICLE IS FROM THE RECYCLING BANK OF GWINNETT, LOCATED IN DULUTH, GEORGIA, THIS FACT SHEET ON RECYCLING GLASS IS RELEVANT TO FORT BENNING AND THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA.

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.GWINNETTCBA.ORG/GLASS-RECYCLING-FACTS/](http://www.gwinnettcba.org/glass-recycling-facts/)

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NEWS FLASH! GLASS NOW GOES IN THE TRASH

Since our inception in 1980, Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful has been proud to accept glass bottles and jars among our long list of items for recycling. However – **beginning January 1, 2016 – the Recycling Bank of Gwinnett will no longer be able to accept glass bottles and jars at our facility.** To provide you with many reasons why this difficult decision has been made, we have created this fact sheet – including research compiled by the National Waste & Recycling Association. We encourage you to change your recycling habits and either find alternatives to glass bottles and jars when shopping or get into the habit of putting your glass in with your trash.

Some little-known facts about glass:

- **Not All Glass is Recyclable** – Many glass bottle manufacturers that use recycled glass to make new bottles can only use certain types of glass. Drinking glasses, ceramic plates, pottery, windowpane glass, mirrors, fluorescent light bulbs and more are not accepted. Many of these materials are being placed in the glass recycling bins at the Recycling Bank of Gwinnett. The impact is that good glass cannot be separated and all the glass ends up in a landfill.
- **Glass Must Be Sorted By Color** – Most glass manufacturers require that glass be sorted by color. They want clean streams of just clear glass, brown glass or green glass. Many recyclers at the Recycling Bank of Gwinnett are mixing the colors. The impact is the good glass cannot be separated and all the glass ends up in a landfill.
- **Glass is Heavy** – Glass bottles and jars far outweigh containers made of plastic, metal or paper. The limited number of glass processing facilities, their geographic distance from collection sites and transportation costs make glass recycling too costly financially and environmentally.
- **Keep Glass Out of Your Curbside Bins** – Many cities in Gwinnett and around the nation have already stopped collecting glass at the curb. A local major processor of curbside recycling in Metro Atlanta has notified its suppliers that mixed glass is no longer an acceptable recycling material and has given notice that it will no longer accept glass at its facility. Even if your recycling company still allows glass in your curbside bin, you should still consider keeping it out. Putting

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glass in your curbside bin results in broken mixed glass. The broken glass mixes with paper and plastics, contaminating these good recyclables and the sorting process, as well. Most recycling processing facilities are sending the broken mixed glass to a landfill because there is no manufacturer that needs or wants this glass.

- **Glass Bottles and Jars are Non-toxic Products** – Glass is made from sand, limestone and soda ash. When glass goes into a landfill, it is not harming the environment or atmosphere.

We encourage you to change your glass recycling habits. Reuse your glass bottles and jars or put them in with your trash. When shopping, purchase your favorite products in packaging other than glass. By keeping glass out of the recycling stream, you are improving the recycling process so that more good recyclables – paper, cardboard, aluminum cans and plastic bottles – can be recovered for Georgia manufacturers who need and want these materials. Although it is difficult to say goodbye to recycling glass at Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful, it will help ensure a clean recycling stream, and keep Georgia's manufacturing sector and economy strong. For those who still want to recycle their glass bottles.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!