



Georgia Recycling Markets Directory

DEFINITIONS

NOTE: These definitions are for your general use and may differ from those applied by various recyclers. Verify the meaning of terms with the respective recycler.

APPLIANCES/WHITE GOODS: Refrigerators, washers and dryers, and other household machinery with mostly metal content. Scrap metal dealers are not interested in appliances primarily composed of plastic.

BALE: A densified and bound cube of recyclable material, such as scrap paper, metal or plastic. Bales are at least several feet per side and can be extremely heavy.

BROKER: Individual or group that acts as an agent or intermediary between sellers and buyers of recyclable goods. The brokers in this publication are interested in large volumes of material (i.e., truckload quantities).

CHIPBOARD: A type of matted or sheeted fibrous product. Also known as paperboard, which is distinguished from paper by being heavier, thicker, and more rigid. For example, cereal boxes are made of chipboard.

COLLECTOR: Party responsible for the collection, retrieval, or accumulation of recyclable materials diverted from the waste stream.

COOLANTS: A fluid that aids in cooling machinery, such as automobile antifreeze.

CRUMB RUBBER: scrap tire rubber that has been size-reduced by a mechanical process.

CULLET: broken or waste glass used in the manufacture of new glass.

END USER: Agent who utilizes a recovered material or product as feedstock or raw material in manufacturing new products.

FERROUS METALS: Any iron or steel scrap that has iron content sufficient for magnetic separation.

FLAKES/REGRIND: Ground-up recycled plastics.

GLASS PACKAGING: Container glass used in the form of bottles and jars and always functioning as packaging for food and beverages. Recycling collection programs usually require glass packaging to be sorted by clear, brown and green colors, and lids and closures should be removed. (NOTE: Other types of glass, such as window panes, can be also be recycled).

HIGH GRADE PAPER: Bleached groundwood free coated or uncoated paper, including printed and unprinted white paper, laser and laser free computer printout, and colored and NCR paper.

HDPE: High-density polyethylene. A plastics resin that produces a durable, lightweight plastic used for packaging items such as milk jugs, detergent bottles, plastic bags, etc. HDPE can be identified by the number 2 inside the recycling symbol. Plastic bags made of HDPE make a crinkly noise when crumpled.

LDPE: Low-density polyethylene. A plastics resin usually used to produce a filmy plastic used in various products such as shrink wrap packaging, plastic sandwich bags and dry cleaning bags. . LDPE can be identified by the number 4 inside the recycling symbol and is differentiated from HDPE by its slightly waxy texture and absence of noise when crumpled.

LEAD-ACID BATTERIES: Batteries typically found in automobiles and other vehicles. Lead-acid batteries are heavy and can pose an environmental threat when improperly disposed due to their lead content and acids. In Georgia, they are banned from municipal solid waste landfills.

MIXED PAPER: Paper that is a mixture of at least two of the following paper types: newspaper, high grade paper, magazines, corrugated cardboard, or chipboard.

NON-FERROUS METALS: Any metal scraps that have value and are derived from metals other than iron and its alloys in steel, such as aluminum, copper, brass, etc. Unlike ferrous metal, a magnet will not adhere to a non-ferrous metal.

OLD CORRUGATED CONTAINERS (OCC): A widespread paper stock grade usually consisting of kraft paper comprising two liners sandwiching a corrugated medium. OCC is most often used to encapsulate (box) and protect merchandise.

NEWSPAPER: Any newsprint that can be recovered and used as raw material in the manufacture of a new product. Referred to as ONP, old newspaper is most commonly used to manufacture new newsprint.

PELLETS: Chips or granules of a recyclable material. Recyclable plastics are commonly processed into pellets.

PET: Polyethylene terephthalate. A plastics resin used to manufacture packaging products such as soft drink bottles. It is commonly identified with the number 1 inside the recycling symbol on the underside of the container.

PP: Polypropylene plastic resin usually utilized for film and sheet products. It is commonly identified by the number 5 inside the recycling symbol and “PP” on the underside of the packaging.

PROCESSOR: Agent who prepares, refines, preserves, or otherwise changes the initial form of

collected recyclable materials so that the material will be reusable in some form.

PS: Polystyrene. A hard, dimensionally stable thermoplastic that is easily molded. Expanded polystyrene (PS) is commonly used to manufacture take-out food containers and shipping peanuts. Polystyrene packaging is commonly identified with the number 6 inside the recycling symbol on the underside of the packaging. NOTE: Styrofoam is a trademarked brand name, not generic.

PVC: Vinyl. A polymer of vinyl compound, derived from ethylene. It is used to make shampoo bottles, garden hoses, credit cards, etc. It is commonly identified with the number 3 inside the recycling symbol on the underside of the packaging.

TON: a unit of weight equal to 2,000 pounds.