

Tips to Improve Home Recycling

- Set up a recycling area in your home that's easy and convenient to use.
- Use the **Brewster Recycling Guide** so you know what can be recycled.
- If you have space, separate your recycling at home into separate containers making it easier and quicker for you at the transfer station. If you have space in your kitchen, designate an area so that you can recycle as you are cooking or cleaning.
- To help keep down foul odors, make sure you rinse food waste off any plastic, metal, or glass food containers before putting them in the recycling bin.
- The main categories for recycling are:
 - newsprint only
 - glass containers
 - containers made of metal & plastic commingled
 - cardboard & other clean paper commingled
 - yellow PAYT bag for all other trash
- Start composting your food waste (fruit, vegetables, yard waste and grass) to keep it out of the PAYT bag.
- Flatten cardboard boxes to fit more in your home container with other recyclable paper such as envelopes, cards, catalogues, paper towel & toilet tubes, etc.
- Metal items, other than food containers, can also be recycled, but keep them separate and put them in the scrap metal pile.
- Have a unique item? Check out [RecycleSmartMA](#) which has a searchable database of most household items.
- Donate items that you don't need to a swap shop or non-profit group.
- Send usable clothing, shoes and textiles to a consignment or thrift store.
- Use reusable grocery bags and avoid all plastic bags.
- Purchase items that have less packaging to throw away.
- Cut down on purchasing new items and use currently owned ones as long as possible.
- Stop unwanted mail and catalogs.
- Purchase used clothing and household items. Clean them up and they're as good as new.

- If you are ever unsure about what you can recycle, check Brewster's Recycling Guide. If there is any doubt...throw it out!