

additional resources: spps.org/about/departments/facilities/sustainability-practices/waste-recycling/organics-program



Why We Sort Waste

Sorting waste fosters a culture of environmental sustainability among students, staff and the wider community. Proper waste sorting reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills or incinerators, conserving valuable resources. The District spends more than \$1 Million dollars on our waste program every year and in Ramsey County trash is taxed 70% (we essentially pay for it twice) whereas recycling and organics have 0% tax. Embracing this program is tangible and impactful way to demonstrate our district's dedication to being a responsible steward of our environment and resources.

Program Supplies

Nutrition Services purchases compostable food ware for lunch service such as: compostable trays, cutlery and rice bowls (look for the word "compostable" on the items)

Replacement table signs, screens for milk/liquids and tongs/squeegees for the sorting tables are available from ESG. e-mail ESG@spps.org if replacements are needed.

A successful cafeteria sorting program relies on education, and the right container and signs for students to sort waste properly. **Tips and information on how each of the different waste streams are managed:**

Milk/Beverage Waste (Liquids)

Liquids includes any milk/juice/water/pop liquid left in containers.

- Liquids are collected in a 5 gallon bucket with a screen or a brute with a funnel top lid and a screen in the opening so the container can then be recycled.
- Liquids should be the first stream collected.

How Custodian Manages Liquids:

Liquids buckets/barrels should be dumped down the drain in a custodial closet and container rinsed out.

Recycling

For the cafeteria recycling includes beverage and food containers such as: cartons, plastic, glass, and metal containers. **No juice pouches.**

- Majority of the recycling coming out of the cafeteria will be milk cartons.
- Containers need to be empty to be recycled.

How Custodian Manages Recycling:

White plastic bags are used in the recycling barrel on the sorting table to help keep the barrel clean. Recycling is disposed of in the recycling/cardboard dumpster loose, the plastic bag should then be disposed of in the trash dumpster. The milk cartons/recycling needs to be loose so it can dry and not get moldy.

Organics

Organics includes food waste, food-soiled paper such as napkins and paper towels, certified compostable items such as trays, cutlery, rice bowls and green compostable bags.

- Trays should be stacked rather than put into the organics barrel. This limits how often bags needs to be changed, and takes up less space in the dumpster.
- Only certified compostable plastics and food ware items.

How Custodian Manages Organics:

Organics is collected in green compostable bags and placed in the dumpster labeled organics. Custodial should change bags when barrel is half full to manage lift loads. Stacks of compostable trays can go into the dumpster loose or be added to compostable bags with the food waste. If there is a excessive f contamination, it needs to be put in the trash.

Trash

Trash includes anything else not accepted in other streams such as wrappers, chip bags, condiment packets, and flexible film/wrap.

How Custodian Manages Trash:

Trash is collected in a black plastic bag and disposed of in the trash dumpster.