



# Recycling

## Why be concerned?

Wastes can often be converted into a resource. Take advantage of opportunities to recycle your wastes and to buy recycled products.



## “Closing the Loop”

Recycling hasn't technically occurred until recycled materials are purchased as new products. This is called “closing the loop.” Buying recycled products expands product market and reduce product cost.

Whenever possible, purchase products that you know can be recycled. For example, some absorbent materials are designed to be recycled whereas others, such as cat litter, must be landfilled. Ask your vendor about substituting products you currently use with those made from recycled - and recyclable - materials.

## 5 STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL RECYCLING:

### 1. Separate wastes

Combining different types of waste can prevent or complicate recycling and greatly increase disposal costs. For example, uncontaminated waste oil can be recycled, but waste oil mixed with solvents or other products requires a much more costly disposal process.

### 2. Recycle what you can

The following materials can usually be recycled:

- antifreeze
- tires
- car batteries
- oil and oil filters
- uncontaminated gasoline and brake fluid
- some solvents such as degreasing agents and paint solvents
- concrete and asphalt
- building materials
- metal scraps
- latex paint
- pallets and untreated wood
- landscaping wastes
- cooking oil, fats and greases
- paper and cardboard
- glass, plastic, aluminum and tin containers

To start your own recycling program, talk to your waste hauler or call one of the agencies listed under “Getting Help.” Look for haulers that are willing to work with you to design a recycling program based on *your* needs. Basic questions include:

- What materials are accepted?
- What quantities are accepted?
- Will the hauler pay for certain recyclable materials?
- Will the hauler provide recycling containers?
- How much will the service cost?
- Will the materials be taken to appropriate sites?
- Does the hauler provide education materials such as training videos or pamphlets?
- Can the hauler supply references?



When designing a recycling program, be sure that it's useful to all of your employees. Provide clearly marked bins for storing materials and place them where they are easy to use. Involve your staff in designing and implementing the program.

### 3. Consider contracting with an industrial fluid recycling service

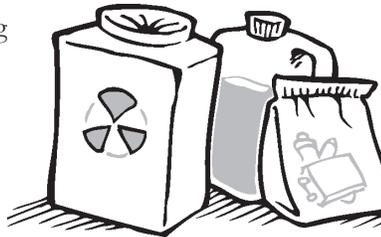
These services pick up and recycle a variety of used industrial fluids. Some will also recycle other materials, such as used oil filters and absorbent materials. Depending on the company, these services can offer several advantages, including:

- compliance with all applicable state and federal laws.
- financial protection in the event of a spill.
- waste stream analysis (finding ways to minimize waste and identifying wastes that are recoverable).
- assistance with paperwork, such as shipping manifests.
- equipment leasing and maintenance. Some companies lease parts cleaners, which they maintain and supply with solvent. On a regular schedule, clean solvent is exchanged for spent solvent that is recycled. This service is also available if you already own a parts cleaner. By using this type of service, over 85% of waste solvent can be turned back into fresh solvent and reused.

When choosing an industrial fluid recycling service, determine exactly what will be done with your wastes. If possible, hire a company that will re-refine and reuse materials instead of burning them for fuel (even though the latter is preferable to simple incineration or landfilling).

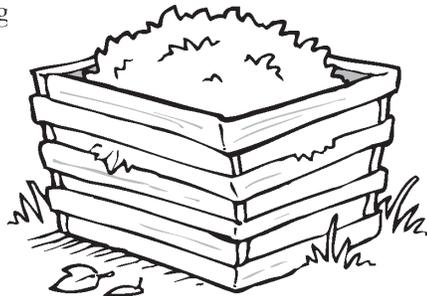
### 4. Properly store hazardous wastes prior to recycling

Legal requirements for storing, handling and transporting hazardous wastes apply until the point that they are actually recycled. For more information about hazardous waste regulations, contact one of the agencies listed under “Getting Help.”



### 5. Compost landscape wastes

Local landfills no longer accept landscaping waste. Composting this waste provides an environmentally sound alternative to landfilling. In addition, the compost can be used to enrich the soils on-site. For more information about composting, contact one of the agencies listed under “Getting Help.”



## GETTING HELP

Georgis Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD).....(770) 528-3340

Cobb County Solid Waste Management & Recycling.....(770) 581-5488

Cobb Cobb Vegetative Waste Recovery.....(770-896-3995)

UGA Cooperative Extension Service for Cobb County .....(770) 528-4070

Keep Cobb Beautiful.....(770) 528-1135

Community Partners for Healthy Streams.....(770) 528-1482