



Custodians... The Key To Successful School Recycling Programs

Custodians are a vital part of the Recycle Team. Coordinating the recycling program with them is a key component in getting collected recyclables from inside the school to the white recycling dumpster outside. They can also be a great help in monitoring the program's success.

Here is a list of things custodians can do to help with your recycling program's success:

1. **Designate placement of recycle containers.** Blue 28-quart recycling containers are placed inside of each classroom and at workstations in the office areas of the school. In addition, there are 40 gallon blue recycling carts placed in staff copy rooms and in the kitchen/cafeteria. The school Recycling Coordinator and students will have 40 gallon blue rolling carts for recyclables collection from classrooms and offices during the day.
2. **Flatten your cardboard boxes.** Generally, it works best if you designate specific locations to collect flattened cardboard boxes. The cafeteria, copy room, administrative offices, media center, and school store are the main sources of cardboard.
3. **Move recyclables from inside collection containers to the outside recycling container.** Recyclables should be collected from the inside containers or common area on a daily basis or as appropriate. In some schools, custodians have responsibility for all recycling containers. At other schools, custodians have responsibility for only centrally located recycling containers. Rolling blue carts may be used for inside collection of recyclables for transporting the materials to the outside recycling dumpster. If students are performing daily collection with the blue carts, custodians should designate a cart drop-off area where custodians can empty the recyclables from the blue cart into the white recycling dumpster. Students should not empty recycle carts into the dumpsters outside.
4. **Learn "What Goes Where."** Four groups of materials can be recycled through the City of Victorville Recycling Program. All kinds of Paper and Cardboard, Aluminum and Tin Food Cans, Plastic Containers, Tubs, Jars, and Trays #1 - #7, and Glass Bottles and Jars only. Post a copy of the "What Goes Where" flier in the Custodian Room.
5. **Stop Contamination!** Contamination can mean an entire dumpster of recyclables will be sent to the landfill instead of to the Victor Valley Materials Recovery Facility. Contamination occurs when trash and non-recyclable items are placed in the white recycle dumpster. Custodians are often the first line of defense against contamination. Pizza boxes and half full drink containers are a major source of this. If contamination is found in the collection containers, it must be placed in the trash. Trash containers should be placed near recycling containers in order to minimize contamination.

For more information contact the City of Victorville Recycling Program at (760) 955-8615.

