

Facts About The

Big Blue Bins

This program is 100% voluntary and is offered by the Mercer County Commissioners and site sponsors to supplement existing programs and provide recycling opportunities to those living in areas with no recycling available. There are no requirements for you to use this program. If you are going to use the program, follow the rules.

Only the following materials are collected in the bins: **bottles (plastic/glass), cans (steel, tin, aluminum), jars (glass), magazines, newspapers, cardboard, and phone books.** **Everything else is trash, including plastic bags,** and belongs in your garbage can.

This program is for **residential** use only.

Leaving ANY materials, including recyclables, outside of the bins is a crime. This is littering and is clearly defined in the "Scattering Rubbish" sections of the Pennsylvania Crimes and Vehicle codes. The County reserves the right to prosecute alleged violators to the fullest extent of the law.

Littering is expensive for communities. Abuse of the Big Blue Bins is a waste of tax money. It costs a significant amount of money to address the problem, thereby taking away resources that would have been used to recycle more materials such as electronics and paint.

Leaving materials on the ground also:

- Makes the location look unsightly,
- Attracts additional abuse (monkey-see, monkey do),
- Results in additional litter that blows through the neighborhood,
- Means that someone else has to pick it up/throw it away/put it in the bins.

Put yourself in the shoes of the people that live in the neighborhood, clean the site and surrounding area, and the people that care about the program.

Residents and businesses of **Sharon, Farrell, Hermitage, Grove City Borough and Greenville Borough** are required by state and local laws to recycle at their home or place of business. Using the Big Blue Bins does NOT satisfy that requirement.

Materials placed in the bins are the property of the county and its collection contractor. Taking items, such as aluminum cans, out of the bins is stealing.

Every bin has a small white sign by the opening that states what belongs in it. Also, every site has at least one larger sign that reiterates the usage rules for the program. As the signage indicates, sites are monitored by portable surveillance cameras.

The county does not receive any money for the materials placed in the Big Blue Bins. To have the materials collected, hauled, and processed, costs approximately \$1,900 per bin annually. Money in recycling is made by the recycling centers after the recyclables have been processed and sold, not by the municipalities or haulers taking recyclables there.

The Big Blue Bins are **emptied twice a week:** Monday nights and Friday daytime.