

## What you can't take to the dump: New law takes effect Thursday

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SHELBY — “Ban” seems like such a harsh word. Sam Lockridge prefers to say “recycle.”

State landfill bans on plastic bottles, wooden pallets and personal oil filters start Thursday and Cleveland County is more than ready, according to Lockridge, the county’s solid waste manager.

“I didn’t wait until Oct. 1,” Lockridge said, “so we’re several months ahead of the game here.

“We’ve been promoting at all the recycling centers, and have been collecting oil filters for a couple of months. We even have a brochure that looks like an oil filter.

“We’re providing the people of Cleveland County the opportunity to participate with these materials that have been banned.

“We’re up to the challenge,” he said. “We’ve already implemented and already communicated (at the sites with brochures, etc.) and been in touch with municipalities and most commercial customers. We’re working with those guys, making them aware of the new law.”

Letting the public know how they can comply is Lockridge’s focus now.

Plastics labeled No. 1 and No. 2 have been taken in for recycling for a long time, since the state banned them from landfills some years ago.

The new law bans plastics through No. 7, and those can be thrown in the recycle bins now as well, Lockridge said.

“Those are collected the same way we do 1s and 2s,” he said.

“What I don’t want people to confuse — this is not plastic toys, etc., but only *rigid* plastic *containers*.”

Wooden pallets come primarily from commercial and industrial accounts, he said.

“It’s rare for a residential customer to have a pallet. A private individual could still put a pallet at the convenience centers in the bulk waste container, but if it comes from a business, they have to separate it and it has to be recycled.”

Eager to get the word out, Lockridge said, “It’s kind of neat the amount of publicity sent out by the state. We’ve been adjusting every so often whenever the state bans something from the landfill.”

For instance, he said, “On Jan. 1, 2011, they’re going to be adding computer equipment and televisions. So prior to that date, I will start looking at how we’re going to accomplish that.

“My job is to make sure none of these items come into the landfill and to provide a place where folks can take them instead. Since it’s banned from the landfill, we cannot knowingly accept those items in the landfill.

“So we have provided the means for people to comply with the law. It’s the right thing to do because it saves landfill space and you save money, bottom line.”

“The law represents a major growth opportunity for the state’s recycling businesses and for local government recycling collection programs as well,” said Scott Mouw, environmental supervisor for the state Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance.

## **LEARN MORE**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plastic\\_recycling#Plastic\\_Identification\\_Code](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plastic_recycling#Plastic_Identification_Code)

<http://www.re3.org/>

<http://www.p2pays.org/bannedmaterials>

For more information on banned items, please contact the state Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance at (919) 715-6500 or (800) 763-0136.

## **WHERE TO RECYCLE**

What: Recycle plastic containers (No. 1 through 7), cardboard, glass, used motor oil and filters (residential only), appliances, etc.

Where: Cleveland County Recycling Centers

Locations and contact numbers:

1069 Airport Road, Shelby, 704-480-5508

2944 Old Cliffside Road, Mooresboro, 704-434-7441

4732 Peyton Place Road, Polkville, 704-538-0772

Midpines, 615 Margrace Drive, Kings Mountain, 704-739-5184

307 Casar-Lawndale Road, Lawndale, 704-538-0879

2522 Blacksburg Road, Grover, 704-480-5513

230 Vic Randall Road, Lawndale, 704-538-0609

1127 Oak Grove Road, Kings Mountain, 704-739-1903

307 Market St., Shelby, 704-480-5516

Hours: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday

Questions? Sam Lockridge, 704-476-3161

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles:

Every 3.9 seconds, to reach the height of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.

Every 17.3 seconds, to reach the height of the Bank of America Building in Charlotte.

Every 1.3 minutes, to reach the distance of the first Wright Brothers' flight.

Every hour, to line the length of Lowes' Motor Speedway in Charlotte 22.9 times.

NC throws away about 270 million dollars worth of recyclable goods each year.

Only half of aluminum cans are recycled despite a statewide disposal ban on the material.

Other items banned from disposal in North Carolina landfills include whole tires, appliances (white goods), yard waste, lead acid batteries, used oil and antifreeze.

North Carolinians recycle 85.4 pounds of materials a second. That's impressive! But we throw away more than 752 pounds of trash a second. That's almost nine times what we recycle.

Construction and demolition is the largest waste stream in the state, accounting for about 32 percent of all disposed waste. Recycling facilities are being developed around the state for these materials. Habitat for Humanity operates "Re-Stores" in some North Carolina communities, accepting donations and selling reusable construction materials.

## **SHELBY RE-STORE:**

Habitat for Humanity of Cleveland County ReStore

323 W. Grover St., Shelby 704-482-6289

On the Web: <http://local.habitat.org/clevelandconc>