

Hi neighbors. Joanie is the trash/recycling contact person for Los Ranchitos. Thanks Joanie for your continued work here. I really don't have anything to do with this process, but I do have a few comments based on observations over the last couple of years and based on my previous experience over a few decades at our previous home. We have a lot of newer neighbors who may not be aware of a few things, while other long timers are fully aware. So here goes.

(1) Attached to this email are two .JPG graphic files that show what can and cannot be recycled in our recycle container. Recyclable items include cardboard, paperboard, mixed paper, newspapers, catalogs, phone books, paperback books, paper bags, plastic bottles/tubs/containers labeled #1 through #7, tin cans, aluminum cans, foil, and pie plates.

(2) It sure helps all of us if boxes are flattened first before placing them in the big recycle container by the mailboxes. Space for others is attained by doing this.

(3) Not all items are recyclable. For our recycle container, NON-recyclable items include glass, any type of plastic bags, plastic bubble wrap, styrofoam in any form, and any wood products. In fact when you place these items in the recycle container, there's a great possibility that the ENTIRE LOAD will be rejected at the recycle center and discarded as trash. The national move towards single-stream recycling has exacerbated this problem. Please don't put these non-recyclable items in our recycle container.

(4) With regard to the above items, glass bottles can be saved and taken by you to the Durango Recycle Center (790 Tech Center Dr., Durango 81301) and dropped off for free at the self-service glass chute. But they don't accept window pane glass, glass dishes, ceramics, etc., just glass bottles. Several types of plastic bags can be taken by you to City Market or Albertsons for easy free drop off.

(5) To my knowledge, styrofoam, including packing peanuts, is presently not accepted for recycling in the Durango area. Unfortunately, trash appears to be the option for us. Perhaps this will change in the future as styrofoam does not degrade for hundreds of years.

(6) Other items that you can take to the recycle center (do not place these in our recycle container!) include fluorescent bulbs, batteries, and electronics. More information about the Durango recycle center is available at <https://durangogov.org/363/Recycling#!rc-cpage=260423>

(7) Scrap metal should not be placed in our recycle container, only tin and aluminum cans, foil, and pie plates. However, you can take many kinds of scrap metal, including appliances, to Recla Metals, located almost due south of us at 33399 US Highway 160, Durango 81301.

(8) Construction debris of any kind should not be placed in our trash or recycle containers. You can take it to the Durango Transfer Station for drop off at a small fee. The Transfer Station is at 790 Tech Center Dr., Durango 81301, adjacent to the recycle center.

(9) If our recycle or trash containers are full, please don't place items outside of the containers. Hold onto your items until the next week or take them to the Durango recycle center. Items placed outside of the containers will not be picked up by our trash and recycle service folks. And they can attract bears, dogs, etc.

(10) This info email was prompted by my observations over the last many months and finally by seeing a large coffin-sized box that appeared behind our recycle container before the last snowstorm. While the big box had recyclables in it, it was not flattened, had a lot of wasted space in it, and had non-recyclable plywood at each end. I broke the box down, cut it up, placed it in the recycle container, and discarded the plywood end pieces.

(11) Finally, regarding the mailboxes, I put crushed rocks in front of the boxes so our feet don't get so muddy when picking up mail. I realize that snow plowing and road grading will disturb the crushed rock. No problem. I'll just add more as it's needed. I get the rock at no cost at C & J and I don't mind doing this.

(12) I hope that this information helps. It is not my intention to ruffle feathers, just to see all of us do a better job with trash and recycling! Sorry for the long missive.

Bob Eppinger