

Town of Grand Island Automated Recycle Questions

1. What if I generate more than the contents of the Tote can hold?
- Typically one Tote will hold all the recycle normally generated however, if you generate more than it will hold call Republic Waste Services at 716-614-3333.
2. Can I place recyclables outside or on top of the Tote?
- If you place material outside of the Tote, you should place next to the Tote. Please remember to leave at least three (3) feet of space between the Tote and other collection items.
3. What happens if the Tote breaks?
- If your Tote should happen to break, please call Republic Waste Services at 716-614-3333. (Name, address, and # on the side of Tote)
4. What happens if someone steals my Tote?
- If your Tote is stolen please call Republic Waste Services at 716-614-3333. When you call, remember to give us your Name, address, and if available the # on the side of Tote that was stolen.
5. Can I get another Tote?
-Not immediately. Republic Waste Services only has enough Totes for each household in Grand Island. The route supervisor will be monitoring the collection & will decide along with the town which household will require another Tote within the next month.
6. Tote is too bulky, where am I going to store it?
- Unlike standard cans these Totes use less space than 3 standard garbage cans, are one and ½ times as deep as a recycle bin, and are animal proof, wind proof (up to 55 mph), and odor proof. That means you can leave it outside.
7. What if it snows? Where do I place the Tote?
- Try to place the Tote in a location that is close and accessible from the street. Also, find a place that is clear of snow and will not be in the way of current or future snow removal operations. Please do not leave behind a snow bank or on top of a snow pile, etc.
8. I'm a senior citizen and only generate very little recycling per week...must I use the Tote?
-You do not have to set the Tote out every week; you can set it out when it is close to full or full. This will reduce your trips to the curb to set out a small recycle bin every week.
9. I'm handicapped, how do I push this to the curb?
- The Tote is simple to use and rolls with very little effort. The Tote is designed to roll very easy and is easier than carrying bins, boxes, or bags to the street.
10. What do you do with large items that don't fit in the Tote?(i.e plastic furniture, large boxes, etc.)
- Any plastic material that does not fit into the Tote set out next to the tote for collection. Break down all boxes to a size that will fit into the tote. We do not ask for plastic to be broke down, as it is not made to come apart easily.
11. Where do I place the Tote at the curb? Does it have to face a certain way?
- When you wheel your Tote to the curb, follow the arrows on top of the Tote. They will indicate that the wheels and handles need to face the house. Please keep at least three (3) feet away from another object such as your trashcans, mailboxes, trees, fence posts, parked cars, light poles, any stationary object, etc.

12. Are the Totes safe?
- Yes when properly used. Please do not let children play in or around them, especially when they are placed out for collection.
13. The Tote is too heavy, how do I manage?
- The Tote is designed to handle and contain residential recycle. It is not designed to handle sod, dirt, rocks, concrete, or building materials. Chances are that you have placed materials in the Tote that are not allowed.
14. What do I do with my recycling bin?
- It's simple. You can continue to use it for inside your home or garage to collect all the materials that are accepted for recycling and place them in the recycling tote, or you may place it in the recycle tote to recycle. Please follow recycle guidelines you receive with your new Tote.
15. What kind of materials can I recycle?
- With this program, in addition to the current recycle items the following have been added:
Plastic items:
- Household Plastics (empty) with recycle numbers 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
This includes rinsed yogurt, cottage cheese, margarine type containers
- Rigid Plastics- toys, lawn furniture, etc. (with no metal)
- Plastic jugs/ Bottles with recycle numbers 1, 2
- Aluminum Cans (empty)
- Kitchen cookware (pots, pans, tins & utensils)
- Steel and tin cans (empty)
16. Is there some information available about the new recycling program?
- Yes, every household that will receive or have received a Tote will receive information and guidelines about the Tote. If you didn't receive guidelines or you need more information check the Grand Island website at www.grand-island.ny.us or call Republic Waste Services at 716-614-3333.
17. When does the recycling Tote get collected?
- Like all other material, the recycling collection will occur on the same day as waste collection & refuse.
18. Where should I place the Tote?
- You should place your recycling Tote at the curb along with your trash. Please remember to leave some space between your recycling bin and other materials placed out for collection. Please leave no more than 4 feet between the street & recycling Tote.
19. It says you take aluminum. Do you take siding?
- No, the only materials we accept for recycling are that of the food and beverage can nature. Aluminum siding is recyclable but it is considered an industrial/commercial collection item. Check your local scrap yard for collection information.
20. Do I have to clean the recyclables before I put them in the bin?
- Yes, please clean your recycling materials so that there is no food left in the Totes. Dirty materials can make the materials difficult for recycling. Additionally, this will help reduce odors from the recycling tote.
21. Where does the material go?
- The recycling materials are taken to our facility called a MRF in Kenmore, NY. MRF stands for Materials Recovery Facility. In this facility our workers along with sophisticated machinery separate recycling materials into proper categories and prepare them to be send off to be processed into new products.