

WHERE DOES MY GARBAGE & RECYCLING GO???

This is the story of what happens to the garbage and recycling after you put it out for collection. Every home has a black garbage can for garbage and a blue garbage can for recycling. Apartments have a big tan dumpster for garbage and a blue dumpster for recycling.

Let's talk about garbage! Each week, your black garbage can is rolled to the curb where it is emptied by one of our blue garbage trucks.

Each garbage truck can hold the garbage from about 800 homes and can hold up to 10 tons (1 ton = 2,000 pounds) of garbage before it has to be emptied!



A garbage truck emptying a garbage can.



The Logan Landfill in 2018

Everything you throw away in your black garbage container ends up in a landfill. A **landfill** is a place where we dispose of garbage by burying and covering it with a cover material such as soil by the end of each working day. Covering garbage with dirt is like putting a lid on the landfill. It keeps garbage at the landfill so it doesn't blow away, keeps the smell down, and prevents things like flies and rodents from living at the landfill.

We have two landfills in Cache County. The Logan Landfill is in Logan. It opened in 1960 and is now nearly full. It is 85 acres big and 150 feet tall at the highest point. The

North Valley Landfill, where your garbage goes, is in far north Cache County and opened in 2017. This landfill is 120 acres and is still below grade (or a hole in the ground).

The blue garbage trucks do not go directly to the North Valley Landfill to unload, the first go to a transfer station.

A **transfer station** is a building that holds garbage for a short time while it is loaded onto a truck that is much bigger than a garbage truck and driven to the landfill. Each of our **transfer trucks** holds up to 20 tons of garbage. Every day nearly 300 tons of garbage is disposed of at the transfer station and driven to the North Valley Landfill to be buried. This can take anywhere from 12 - 16 transfer truck loads.



One 10-acre cell of the North Valley Landfill in the process of being lined in 2017



The Logan City Transfer Station



Garbage trucks unloading at the Logan Transfer Station



Equipment used to load a transfer truck



A transfer truck outside of the transfer station

Garbage will remain buried at the North Valley Landfill for hundreds, if not thousands of years. In 2008, we dug out a newspaper that had been buried in the landfill since 1978! This picture was taken the day we removed it from the landfill.



Newspaper recovered from deep within the Logan Landfill

When we recycle, our landfills last longer. It took nearly 20 years to find a location and construct a second landfill in Cache County. The North Valley Landfill is expected to last 80 years. Do you think there will be a lot of new places for a landfill in our county in 80 years from now? Is a landfill the best use of land in Cache County?

Remember, when you put items in a landfill, they don't go away, they sit in a mountain of garbage for many many years! Recycling gives new life to items that would otherwise become a garbage mountain!

A blue recycling truck looks a lot like a garbage truck and can hold nearly 800 cans of recycling before they must unload.

Items that you put in the blue recycling container do not go to the transfer station or landfill. After being collected by our big blue trucks, recycling is taken to a recycling sorting facility in Hyrum owned by Mountain Fiber.

In our homes, we put all our recycling together into one can to make it easy for people to recycle. At the recycling sorting facility, before material can be sent for recycling, the items must be sorted. Most of our recycling is sorted by hand, meaning people do most of the work.

First they remove **contamination**, or anything that is placed into the blue recycling container that is not recyclable. Recycling, for the most part, is sorted by hand. Can you spot the contamination in the photos below?



Recycling truck unloading at Mountain Fiber



Next they remove cardboard boxes, then plastic, and then machines remove metals. The paper is sent to a factory next door where they manufacture paper insulation. It is important that only items that can be recycled end up in the recycling container and that all materials being placed into the recycling are clean and dry!

After recycling is sorted, it is baled (as seen in the photos below) and sold to companies that recycle the material into new products. Paper is used on site to manufacture insulation (the pink stuff that is in your attic or walls – likely your parents have told you not to touch it or you'd get itchy).



CACHE COUNTY RECYCLING

YES



CARDBOARD BOXES



CARDBOARD PACKAGING



PAPER



MAGAZINES & CATALOGUES



PAPER BAGS



PAPER EGG CARTONS



METAL CANS



PLASTIC #1
(CLEAR PLASTIC BOTTLES
WITH A THREADED NECK)



PLASTIC #2
(MILK JUGS)

NO



GLASS



DRINK & FOOD CARTONS



STYROFOAM



PIZZA BOXES



FOOD & GREEN WASTE



PLASTIC #3 - #7



PLASTIC BAGS



CLAMSHELL PACKAGING
(EVEN WITH #1 OR #2)



**DISPOSABLE PLATES,
DRINK CUPS, LIDS &
STRAWS**

DO NOT BAG RECYCLING

WWW.LOGANUTAH.ORG or 435-716-9755