



7 things to keep out of your dumpster

What your business can't throw in the dumpster, and what needs paperwork.

The short answer. Before a cleanout, have the data on old computers and confidential paper destroyed, keep different metals apart, and ask how the refrigerant in fridges, freezers and AC units will be handled. American Resources picks up cardboard, scrap metal, paper and electronics from businesses across metro Atlanta, together, once or on a regular schedule.

1. Old electronics

Computers, phones, servers and many copiers store data. Have the drives destroyed before the equipment is recycled, and keep the certificate of destruction. Batteries and older tube (CRT) screens need their own handling, so keep them out of the dumpster.

More: hard drive destruction

(<https://recyclinggroup.com/services/hard-drive-destruction>)

2. Paper records

Records with customer, employee, medical or financial details should be shredded, not thrown out or recycled whole. Keep the certificate of destruction with your files.

More: one-time purge shredding

(<https://recyclinggroup.com/services/purge-shredding>)

3. Scrap metal

Keep different metals apart, and take off plastic and wood: sorted, clean metal is simpler to weigh and quote.

4. Fridges, freezers and AC units

Fridges, freezers and AC units hold refrigerant, and federal rules say it has to be recovered before the unit is scrapped.¹ Ask whoever takes it how the refrigerant is handled.

5. Vehicles

Start the paperwork first: the title or release document for each vehicle, with the plates off. If a title is missing, say so when you ask for a quote.

6. Cardboard

Clean, dry cardboard recycles. Wet, greasy or plastic-lined boxes usually can't. Flatten boxes and keep them dry, and they're simpler to collect.

7. Paperwork to keep

Keep the certificates of destruction for shredded records and destroyed drives. How long depends on the rules for your industry, so check with whoever handles compliance or your accountant.

Cardboard, scrap metal, paper and electronics in one pickup

American Resources picks up cardboard, scrap metal, paper and electronics from businesses across metro Atlanta, together, once or on a regular schedule.

Get a pickup quote: <https://recyclinggroup.com/contact>

References

1. U.S. EPA, Stationary Refrigeration Safe Disposal Requirements, page updated March 23, 2026. <https://www.epa.gov/section608/stationary-refrigeration-safe-disposal-requirements>