

# Keeping Litter Tamed on Windy Days

With a windy winter at hand, we have all noticed an increase in the litter being scattered by the elements. While we can't control Mother Nature, here are some tips that may help reduce the amount of trash and recycling being blowing away.

## TRASH

1. If possible, take your cart to the curb the morning of pick-up, rather than the evening before. This will reduce the amount of time your cart is exposed to high wind conditions. Make sure your cart is out by 6AM the day of collection.
2. Be sure your lid can close. Trash and recycling items are more susceptible to blowing out of the cart when the lid is not completely shut.
3. Bring your cart in as soon as possible after collection to reduce the risk of your cart blowing down the street. Town Code requires containers to be removed within 12 hours of being emptied.
4. Want to be a good neighbor? If you are home during the day, keep an eye on neighborhood carts and help out if the cart or items in the cart start blowing away in the wind.
5. Bag all your trash before placing it in the bin. This is especially important for small, lightweight items like Styrofoam packing peanuts, paper towels and other light kitchen waste.
6. Compact the trash – if you have loose items, place bagged trash on top of them to prevent them from blowing out of the cart.



## RECYCLING

1. If possible, place heavier recyclables toward the top of the cart to weigh down loose papers, however, do not bag your recyclables to keep them from blowing out of the cart. Plastic bags full of recyclables are not accepted in your recycling because they damage recycling facility equipment and prevent materials from getting properly sorted.
2. If your recycling cart is only partially full, consider waiting until your next collection to place it at the curb.



The bottom line is this – when it comes to garbage and recycling collection on a windy day, it only takes a little extra time to reduce blowing litter. Your neighbors, as well as your hauler, will appreciate it.

Did you know you can request a free “RECYCLING” sticker that can be placed on any container to help secure your recycling? Email [trash@leesburgva.gov](mailto:trash@leesburgva.gov) for your free sticker!