

# Glass Recycling



## How to recycle glass:

- Remove lids, caps, and corks.
- Rinse out glass bottles and jars.
- Keep glass separate from your curbside recycling.
- Bring bottles and jars to a drop-off site.

## Drop-off site:

- Anchorage Recycling Center, 6161 Rosewood Street -- 24 hours, 7 days a week

## DO NOT put glass in curbside recycling carts.

Recycle glass bottles and jars only. Keep boxes and bags out of the glass bin. Do not leave any recyclables or trash on the ground. Materials left on the ground are considered litter, which increases costs and threatens the future of glass recycling.

## DO NOT include:

- Pyrex, laboratory glass, windshield glass, porcelain, ceramics, TV/computer glass
- Boxes or bags
- Lids, caps, or corks

The key to a successful glass recycling program in Anchorage is the completion of the recycling loop. All three steps of the recycling process are vital – collection and processing, manufacturing, and purchasing of the end product.

## Where Does It Go?

Central Recycling Services (CRS) processes the glass at its Ship Creek facility. CRS was already crushing concrete, and recently added an air density separator (like a giant vacuum cleaner) to make the job easier. This equipment removes debris from glass, like paper and plastic, leaving a uniformly crushed product with very little contamination.

In 2012, both the Municipality of Anchorage and State of Alaska updated their material specifications to allow crushed glass aggregate to be blended and used in construction projects as pipe bedding, trench backfill, leveling course, road base, and sub-base.

Incorporation of crushed recycled glass in construction projects is a “high volume, low value” use, offering a stable first opportunity as glass recycling is reintroduced to the Anchorage area and ensuring that all of the supply is used. Since the program was reintroduced in mid-November 2012, monthly collection quantities have doubled, to almost 70 tons per month currently.

Higher value, but lower volume, uses for glass will continue to be developed. Potential products include landscaping leveling material, pavers, traction material, and filtration medium. Some small-scale uses for glass already exist and are likely to continue. For example, Glacierstone has been locally manufacturing and installing recycled-glass countertops since 2011. A grant from SWS allowed them to purchase of a new finish polisher and triple their productivity.



## JBER's Story

In 2011, the 673d Civil Engineer Squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson wrote a letter of interest to the Municipality of Anchorage Solid Waste Services regarding the development of recycled-content specifications for applications in construction projects at JBER. The 673 CES has now incorporated Municipality of Anchorage specifications for crushed glass, recycled-concrete aggregate, and recycled-asphalt pavement into JBER specifications. The Alaska District of the Army Corps of Engineers is also creating specifications to address recycled-aggregate materials on JBER projects. Potential future uses of crushed glass at JBER could include pipe bedding, trench backfill, and leveling course material.

## Kenai's Story

At the Kenai Peninsula Borough's central landfill in Soldotna, all they need to recycle glass is a bulldozer to crush it. This results in a crushed glass that can be used as a sub-base for building roads on the sandy soils into and out of the landfill. Normally the borough buys gravel for this process at a cost of \$17 per yard. Reusing the glass saves the borough 75 to 100 cubic yards of space each year. The borough has been reusing glass since the early 90s and some of the crushed glass is used to control drainage at the landfill. Glass is accepted at all transfer facilities across the borough, and it is crushed in Soldotna or Homer.



*Many agencies and organizations were involved in bringing glass recycling back to Anchorage and will continue behind the scenes to keep it going. Thanks to:*

*Municipality of Anchorage Solid Waste Services, Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR), Central Recycling Services, RockTenn, MOA Public Works, Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU), Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) and the numerous supporters of glass recycling.*