

Garbage & Recycling Timeline (simple version)

500 BC	The first municipal dump is established in ancient Athens
1710	Colonists in Virginia commonly bury their trash. Holes are filled with building debris, ceramic objects, and suits of armor.
1800	Pigs loose in city streets throughout the country eat garbage.
1860	American newspapers are now printed on paper made from wood pulp fiber rather than rags
1872	New York City stops dumping its garbage from a platform built over the East River
1875	The Public Health Act began—prevent mass scavenging, clean up the U.S., and to give authority for waste collection.
1895	The first recycling center is established in New York City
1900	Small and medium sized towns build piggeries, where swine are fed fresh or cooked garbage, It was estimated that pigs could eat 1 ton of trash per day.
1904	Large-scale aluminum recycling begins in Chicago and Cleveland
1907	An unexpectedly thick run of toilet paper is converted to become the first paper towels
1924	Kleenex tissue is introduced
1928	Cellophane is invented by the DuPont™ Cellophane Company
1929	Aluminum foil is invented 1940 The aluminum beverage can is developed. It's distributed in the '60's to consumers.
1942	Americans collect rubber, paper, glass, metals, and fats to help the war effort.
1944	Styrofoam® is invented by Dow Chemical Company
1960	The first disposable razors are sold.
1965	The Federal Govt. realizes that garbage has become a major problem and enacts the Solid Waste Disposal Act that calls for the nation to find better ways of dealing with trash.
1970	The first Earth Day– April 22; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is created.
1973	PET soda bottles are introduced to replace glass bottles. The plastic was first developed in England in 1941.
1974	The first city-wide use of curbside recycling bins occurs in University City, Missouri for collecting newspapers.
1979	EPA issues landfill criteria to prohibit open dumping.
1984	Hazardous and Solid Waste Act amendments and reauthorization to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act require tougher federal regulation of landfills.
1988	The Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act banned ocean dumping of plastic materials.
1989	EPA issues "An Agenda for Action," calling for an integrated solid waste management approach to solving solid waste problems, with waste prevention and recycling as its first two priorities.
1990	Researchers worked to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste from the Skylab Space Station to avoid the \$50,000 per pound cost of bringing it back to Earth and the problem of creating free-floating waste in space.
1991	EPA issues comprehensive municipal solid waste landfill criteria required by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendment.
1993	Municipal solid waste landfill criteria become effective for most landfills in the US.
1996	U.S. reaches its goal of recycling 25% of its waste
2000	Cities in California are required to recycle 50% of its waste; the "pay-as-you-throw" idea begins in about 5,000 U.S. cities. Citizens pay for garbage disposal based on how many bags are being disposed (the less trash you have the less money you pay).