

## Recycling your Greasy Grills and Tanks

Summer grilling season has begun, and it's time to invite family and friends over to show off the centerpiece of your outdoor living—your grill. But if your BBQ is rustier than your cooking skills, you have better options than stashing the old grill behind the garage. Gas and charcoal grills are easily recycled as scrap metal. Broomfield residents can recycle scrap metal during the citywide Spring Cleanup, but if you don't want to wait until next spring, you can always toss your defunct grill into the scrap metal recycling bin located at either the Longmont or Boulder 24-hour drop-off centers. (See [www.ecocycle.org/athome](http://www.ecocycle.org/athome) for map and locations.) No cleaning is required, but please be sure to remove the propane tank before you recycle your grill.

Since you're driving to one of these two locations to recycle your grill, you might as well take a quick inventory around your place to see what else you can load up and drop off. To know whether an item qualifies for the scrap metal bin, please follow our three rules of scrap metal recycling:

1. Don't give us anything that has Freon in it. (No refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers, etc.)
2. Don't toss in anything with hazardous material in it. (No paint cans with leftover paint, engines with gasoline or motor oil in them, electronic equipment, pressurized gas containers like propane tanks, etc.)
3. DO give us anything that is mostly metal, 50% or more. (Your microwave, dishwasher, old keys, metal hangers, metal lawn furniture, pots and pans, weed trimmer...the list goes on and on.) If you need to double check, you can always give me a call at 303-404-2839 or visit [www.ecocycle.org](http://www.ecocycle.org).

Now, what to do with your remaining propane tank? Well, size does matter when it comes to recycling fuel containers. Large refillable tanks, like the one you took off your BBQ grill (or even your RV), need to be taken to a location that services fuel tanks. Locally, Home Depot has a "propane exchange" where you can take them your old empty propane tank and, for a small fee, walk out with a full, new and certified tank. You can also get a list of other service locations from our Guide to Hard-to-Recycle Materials found online at [www.ecocycle.org/htrg](http://www.ecocycle.org/htrg). If a fuel canister's certification has expired, it can be recertified for five years at a time until it is completely unusable. In order to be recertified, the tanks or containers must be in good condition with no excessive rust or damage.

If the tank has seen its last summer, it *is* recyclable, but since it's a pressurized container with combustible gas inside, it is NOT allowed in the scrap metal bin as it is. The same locations that recertify your tank can also help render it recyclable by removing the valve, so that they can recycle it for you or you can safely put it in our scrap metal bin. Please do NOT attempt this at home! The contents are combustible and are under pressure, so removing the valve is a task reserved for professionals who have static-free tools for the job.

Smaller, non-refillable propane canisters, like those used for camping grills or lanterns, are accepted year-round at Boulder County's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility located at 5880 Butte Mill Rd. in Boulder. Weather depending, the facility is open Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. - noon. There is no charge for Broomfield residents, and while you're there you can also drop off any hazardous solvents, chemicals, cleaners, paints, etc. To get more information on what the facility accepts, call their hotline number at 303-441-4800 or visit [www.co.boulder.co.us/recycling/hhw/hhwhome.htm](http://www.co.boulder.co.us/recycling/hhw/hhwhome.htm).

If you're not in a rush to dispose of your empty propane canister or other hazardous materials, you can always wait for the special HHW drop-off events run by the City and County of Broomfield each year in the fall and spring. Keep checking this paper in September and April for the event dates, locations and details. And, in the meantime, have fun and enjoy your summer grilling.

*Genevieve George is Eco-Cycle's Broomfield Outreach Coordinator. To learn more about recycling or the Eco-Cycle/Broomfield Recycling Center, call (303)404-2839 or e-mail [genevieve@ecocycle.org](mailto:genevieve@ecocycle.org)*