

# Effective Order of Bins in Lunchrooms



The order in which bins are placed in the lunchroom can lessen the amount of time it takes to dispose of waste and make it easier for students to select the correct bin.



Schools vary in the way they choose to place the bins in order in their school lunchrooms. Whichever way schools choose, it is important that they be consistent throughout the school.

## What schools are doing

### Clara Barton Open School - Minneapolis

The Clara Barton Open School found it makes the most sense for proper sorting to put organics bins first, then trash bins, then recycling bins. Kids must empty food waste from their containers which are often plastic if it is hot lunch.



These containers go into the next bin which is trash. Recycling is last, as it is the least-used bin in the lunchroom. (Most recycling is paper waste from the classroom).

### Orono Schools

In Orono schools, sorting carts are set up so students dump their milk cartons out first in a

pickle pail. They then remove their silverware and place it in stainless silverware box. In this school the Recycle bins are placed first (blue), next is Trash (red). Students can pick off trash



and toss it in the bin, and lastly Organics (green). Students can "whomp" their trays into the bin with any remaining food stuck to their tray. They then place their tray at the dish room window.



### Scenic Heights Elementary School - Minnetonka

Scenic Heights Elementary has portable stations that they can move to anywhere in the building. They hang items to be placed in each bin above the appropriate bin as an example.





## Resources

### ***School Recycling Saves School Thousands (WCCO Video)***

<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2012/09/13/student-recycling-saves-elementary-school-thousands/>

### ***Free Recycling Bin Signs***

[https://recycleminnesota.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=15:free-signs-images&Itemid=45](https://recycleminnesota.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=15:free-signs-images&Itemid=45)