

Saying Goodbye to Les's and Welcoming Granger

Local waste removal company Les's Sanitary Service officially merged with Granger Waste Services last month. Granger is a family-owned business based in Lansing and has been serving mid-Michigan since 1966.

Starting December 1st, Les's customers automatically switched to Granger's service. Customers will see new trucks and maybe even some new faces. However, several former Les's employees have stayed on. While Granger works towards a smooth transition, there are a few changes that customers must adapt to regarding recycling.

The first and most notable change is that Granger will pick up recycling once every other week instead of the pickup every week. To make space in your recycling bin for two weeks' worth of recyclables, flatten cardboard boxes and crush plastic jugs. It will save so much room in your bin and the hauler's truck!

Also, Granger does not accept lined cartons and some paperboard boxes that Les's used to take. "Lined cartons" are paper cartons coated with wax or foil to prevent leaks. Examples of lined cartons are milk, broth, and orange juice cartons. Lined cartons are hard to recycle because the wax or foil does not separate easily from the paper carton.

Granger also does not accept paperboard designed for cold storage. "Paperboard" is the most common type of box you see at the grocery store. It is thicker than paper but thinner than cardboard. Paperboard for food that goes in the fridge or freezer will no longer be accepted. Examples include boxes for popsicles, microwave dinners, butter, and beverages. Paperboard boxes for non-refrigerated items like cereal will still be accepted.

If you are looking for a new place to recycle lined cartons or cold-storage paperboard, check out the Recycling Drop-Off Centers and Transfer Stations list at barrycountyrecycles.org. Always check drop-off site guidelines to make sure you aren't causing contamination.

Finally, Granger will be making more recycling options available. Customers can choose from two trash cart size options instead of just one size. Check out Granger's full range of services and recycling options to ensure you get one best suited to your needs.

When in doubt, throw it out - or call customer service. Visit www.grangerwasteservices.com/les for more information and to find your pickup schedule.

Rachel Frantz serves as Barry County's Recycling Coordinator and writes columns to answer commonly asked recycling questions. Have a question about recycling or a topic idea for this column? We want to hear from you! Email recycle@barrycounty.org or visit www.barrycountyrecycles.org for more information and to get all your recycling questions answered.