Recycling in Boquete

Boquete district, Chiriquí, Panama · checked 2026-10-11 · BQTWatch · Where to take recyclables, what is accepted and how to prepare it.

MUNICIPAL RECYCLING CENTER - ALTO BOQUETE
Monday to Friday, 8:00 am - 12:00 noon and 1:00 - 4:00 pm.
Where: the old municipal slaughterhouse (antiguo matadero municipal), Alto Boquete. Coming from downtown: drive up to Alto Boquete, pass CEFATI (the tourist center) at the top of the hill and take the **first left** - the building is visible from the road. Coming from the Alto Boquete side: go back toward CEFATI and take the last right before it.
Run by ACAB 3R (Asociación Comunitaria Ambiental, a community-based organization) with the Municipio de Boquete.

Hours from April 2026, as posted on the signs at the center ("Área de Reciclaje - Lunes a Viernes"). Recycling only - no trash: everything must be clean and dry ("Solo reciclaje, limpio y seco").

1. What you can bring - and what you can't

Material	Accepted - and how	Not accepted
Plastic	**#1 (PET)** water, juice and soda bottles - clear, green or blue. **#2** (HDPE: milk and detergent jugs), **#4** (LDPE: clear plastic bags, film), **#5** (PP: tubs, clam-shell produce boxes). Look for the number in the triangle on the bottom. Caps off, brought separately.	#3, #6 (styrofoam) and #7. Other #1 items (e.g. food trays). Disposable food packaging. Anything with food left in it. Dry ice.
Cardboard	All kinds, brown and coloured. Flattened, with **all packing tape and labels removed**.	Food-stained or wet cardboard. Egg cartons. Pizza boxes.
Paper and newspaper	White and coloured paper, newspaper, books, phone directories, notebooks. **Keep newspaper separate from other paper.** Clips, spirals and covers can stay on.	Napkins, paper towels, toilet paper. Glossy magazines.
Glass	Green, brown and clear bottles and jars - unbroken, dry, no residue. Remove the neck collar/ring; bring caps and corks separately.	Blue glass. Crystal, drinking glasses, porcelain, dishes. Mirrors, window glass. Broken glass.
Metals	**Light:** aluminium, soda and beer cans - crushed. **Heavy:** tin (food) cans, brass, car parts. Rinsed, and separated by type.	Paint cans. Screens and electronics (see section 3).
Tetra Pak cartons	Milk and juice boxes: rinse, dry, open out and flatten. Must carry the Tetra Pak logo.	Cartons without the Tetra Pak logo. Cartons with residue.
Also taken	Used cooking oil, cooled, in a closed bottle. Wine corks. Plastic and metal lids.	

2. How to prepare it

• **Clean**: rinse every container; nothing with food or drink left in it is accepted.
• **Dry**: wet paper and cardboard are refused.
• **Sort at home**, one bag or box each: plastic, caps and lids, cardboard, newspaper, other paper, glass, aluminium, tin and other metal, cartons.
• **Flatten** boxes, cartons and bottles; crush cans. Remove tape from boxes.

3. Old computers and electronics

Who	What and how
Handicap Foundation - FPI Thrift Store (Fundación Pro Integración)	**Where:** FPI Thrift Store on Vía Boquete in Alto Boquete, across from Chopsticks Restaurant. **Open:** Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am - 2:30 pm (from 14 September 2026). Collects desktop computers, laptops, monitors, keyboards, mice, power cords, cables, hard drives and printers - new, old, used or broken - to support its community work. Contact Penny Barrett: WhatsApp 6510-8934, e-mail pjbarrett@aol.com (Facebook post, Feb 2026). Wipe or remove your personal data first. Foundation phones: 6558-7233 (Spanish), 6677-3443 (English).

4. Contacts

Contact	Who / what
720-1455	Municipio de Boquete (town hall) - questions about the recycling center and garbage collection. No separate phone for the recycling center is published.
WhatsApp 6935-2726	Municipio de Boquete virtual assistant (listed on the municipal website): complaints and suggestions, appointments, payments.

Sources

Place and hours: "Nuevos Horarios de Reciclaje / New Recycling Hours", Boquete Community Group on Facebook (2 April 2026), with photos of the signs at the center; location from the Mayor of Boquete's notice via News Boquete (23 June 2025) and ACAB 3R (Newsroom Panama, 10 July 2025). **Accepted / not accepted:** Alcaldía de Boquete and ACAB 3R materials guide; oil, corks and lids from ACAB 3R (July 2025). **Electronics:** Handicap Foundation post on Facebook (28 Feb 2026); store hours from the FPI Thrift Store reopening notice (Sept 2026); location from News Boquete (Jan 2026); foundation phones from Casa Solution (May 2025). Rules change: please send corrections with a source.