



Recycling
in Cuyahoga
County is
easier
than ever.

Learn about recycling plastic
and more at
www.CuyahogaRecycles.org



Cuyahoga County
SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
CuyahogaRecycles.org

What About Plastic?

**Recycling plastic can be
confusing but it is important.**

Plastic is among the most important materials used in the world today because it is lightweight, durable and economical. Unfortunately, many of the things that make plastic desirable for use in products and packaging make it less desirable for the environment if disposed improperly. Plastic does not degrade naturally in the environment and pollutes our land and waterways which can harm wildlife and accumulate in our food chain. **We can reduce plastic pollution by recycling it into new and useful products. In the future, recycling markets will allow us to recycle more types of plastic. For now, recycle all your plastic bottles, jars, jugs and tubs.**



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What About Plastic?

Advantages of Recycling Plastic

- Recycling provides a sustainable source of raw materials for manufacturing and requires less energy than making plastic from oil.
- Recycled plastic is used to make all sorts of things like building materials, clothes, carpet, packaging, lumber and toys, to name a few.
- **Recycling creates a sustainable circle of reuse** that keeps our environment clean, creates jobs and conserves natural resources.

What Plastic Should I Recycle and What about Those Numbers?

It used to be that we looked for a number surrounded by a recycling symbol to determine if a plastic container was recyclable. However, those numbers are actually resin codes used by the plastics industry to identify the type of plastic used to make the container, they do not always mean that the item is recyclable. Instead, **we now look at the shape of container to decide if something is recyclable.** And it is simpler than you think.

Plastic Recycling Simplified

In general, we can recycle any plastic container that is shaped like a bottle, jar, jug or tub. These comprise most of the plastic packaging that we bring home from the store and are accepted in all curbside and drop-off recycling programs in Cuyahoga County.

Recycling Tips

- Empty and rinse containers.
- Put the cap back on before recycling.
- Combine your plastic loose, not bagged with your recyclable cans, cartons, glass bottles and paper.
- Don't just recycle in the kitchen, think laundry room and bathroom too.
- Consult the adjacent chart to see what plastics should and should not go in your curbside recycling.

Yes! Include These in Your Curbside Recycling



BOTTLES

Plastic water, soda and beverage, shampoo, mouthwash and other bottles over 2" wide



JARS

Plastic peanut butter, other nut butters and any jars over 2" wide



JUGS

Plastic milk, water, juice and laundry detergent



TUBS

Plastic yogurt, margarine, cottage cheese

No! Leave These out of Your Curbside Recycling



BAGS & FILM

Plastic grocery and shopping bags, bread and sandwich bags, plastic wrap, bubble wrap



CUPS, PLATES & UTENSILS

Plastic and Styrofoam™ cups, Solo® cups, straws, plates and utensils



DURABLES

Plastic toys, furniture, buckets, hangers, flower pots



PRODUCE CONTAINERS

Plastic berry and lettuce clamshell containers



STYROFOAM™

Cups, egg cartons, molded packaging, packing peanuts, take-out containers along with bakery, meat and produce trays



TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS

Plastic and Styrofoam™ fast food containers, lids and clamshell containers



Many of these "No!"

items can be recycled

in other ways. Visit

CuyahogaRecycles.org

for more information.