

Plastic Recycling Made Simple

It's as easy as remembering these 4 shapes

Provided by your Recycling Block Captain, Fall 2015.
More guides at <http://tiny.cc/wpatcapt>.

In Oregon, all of our curbside plastic recycling is **sorted by hand from a fast-paced conveyor belt** (see a video at <http://tiny.cc/shls3x>). When you're deciding which plastics to include in your recycling cart, it helps to know that:

- 1) Workers at sorting facilities have to move very quickly, without enough time to study individual items. That's why shapes are important.
- 2) You can **ignore the chasing arrow symbols and numbers on plastics**. The numbers only indicate the resin that the container is made out of, not the other materials in it. Besides, workers do not have time to read numbers. They must rely on the shape of the container to determine recyclability.
- 3) Not all plastic is recyclable. Many people are confused by what plastics are accepted in their curbside bin. **It's actually quite simple: remember these 4 shapes, and that's all you need to know.**

Bottles

Bottles have a threaded neck or a neck smaller than the rest of the body. Examples: Bottles for water, juice, soap, shampoo, vitamins, aspirin, and condiments. **NO lids/caps/pump/spray tops.**



Jugs

Jugs are just a bottle with a handle. Examples: Jugs for laundry detergent, fabric softener, cat litter, milk, juice, and vinegar. **NO lids/caps/pump tops.**



How clean? Remove excess food or drain excess liquid, & rinse the container (no need to wash the container).

Guidelines

How about lids? A tub's flip-off lid is recyclable. Remove & throw away screw-on lids & pump/spray tops.

Jars

Jars have straight sides with a screw on lid and plastic thicker than a tub. Examples: Jars for mayonnaise, nut butters, mixed nuts, jam, and lotions. **NO lids/caps/pump tops.**



Tubs

Tubs are cylindrical with a top slightly larger than the base. Examples: Tubs for yogurt, sour cream, margarine, salsa, and hummus; also includes nursery pots and buckets that are at least 1 quart, but smaller than 5 gallons. Flip off lids from tubs are OK.



Want to go above and beyond?

So you're on board to recycle right with the 4 shapes in your curbside bin. Want to do more? Here are 4 ways:

- 1) *Want to recycle beyond the curb?* Get a full guide to **recycling plastics** in the Corvallis area at: <http://tiny.cc/corvallis-plastics>.
- 2) *Want to do more than recycling?* From an environmental perspective, it's much more beneficial to reduce and reuse versus recycle. Get the guide to **reducing plastic waste** at: <http://tiny.cc/reduce-plastic>.
- 3) *Want to spread the word?* Consider becoming a **Recycling Block Captain!** Info about participation and links to previous handouts can be found at: <http://tiny.cc/wpatcapt>.
- 4) *Want to become a master?* There is still time to register for the free 2016 **Master Recycler Class!** Get all the info you need at: <http://tiny.cc/recycclass>.