

Plastic Recycling Update

Note: See all past and future handouts at <http://tiny.cc/wpatcapt>

Provided by your Recycling Block Captain, Summer 2013

What's Changed & Why?

The world of recycling is based on markets; if someone isn't willing to use the material as feedstock to manufacture new products, there is no market for it and no recycling opportunity.

In February 2013, China announced "Operation Green Fence," an effort to enforce stricter standards on recycling shipped to it, with the goal of reducing garbage and pollution. These newly enforced restrictions relate to the level of acceptable contamination and types of plastics accepted. Because of these restrictions, we have lost the market for some plastics, for the time being.

What this means for plastic recycling:

This change mostly impacts mixed, low-grade plastics. Thus, the plastic containers accepted in your curbside commingle cart has not changed, and neither has the stretchable film plastic accepted at the Republic Services Depot.

On the other hand, special plastics formerly accepted at the Co-op are no longer being accepted because their vendor, Agri-Plas, is not accepting them. See below for what plastics they currently do accept.



Republic Services Curbside Cart

(541) 754-0444

ALL ITEMS MUST BE **EMPTIED** (if contained dry material) OR **RINSED** (if contained liquid material). **NO COMPOSTABLE PLASTICS.**

Rigid plastic containers in these 4 categories:

Bottles - has opening smaller than body

- all rigid bottles other than those that contained hazardous waste - beverages, shampoo, soaps, condiments, medicine/vitamin bottles w/ openings smaller than body (NO amber medicine bottles), etc
- NO LIDS/CAPS/PUMP TOPS**



Jugs - bottles w/ handles

- laundry soap, cat litter, pet food, milk/juice, syrup
- NO LIDS/CAPS/PUMP TOPS**



Tubs - cylindrical w/ top larger than base

- yogurt, butter/margarine, nursery pots, buckets smaller than 5 gal (NO metal handles), flip off lids from these containers, some fast food cups (white cups with printing; NO clear, color or paper cups)



Jars - has straight sides w/ screw on lids

- nut butter, nuts, condiments (e.g. mayo, mustard, jam), lotions
- NO LIDS/CAPS/PUMP TOPS**



Republic Services Depot

110 NE Walnut Blvd., Corvallis, OR 97330 • (541) 754-0444

All plastics accepted at the curb (see above) can also be recycled here.

Plastic film - soft, stretchable plastic

- grocery bags, shrink wrap, bubble wrap, zipper food storage bags, plastic wrap, clean stretchable food packaging (bags from cereal, bread, produce, etc.)
- MUST BE CLEAN**
- NO MYLAR (shiny silver) OR NON-STRETCHABLE plastic (chip bags, etc.)**



First Alternative Co-op Community Recycling Center

1007 SE Third St., Corvallis, OR 97333 • (541) 753-3115

All plastics accepted at the curb

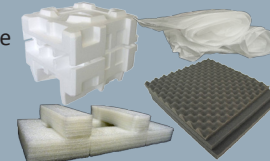
(see above) can also be recycled here.

Reusable bubble wrap - if clean and w/ air pockets intact



Styrofoam/Polystyrene Foam

- blocks, wraps/sheeting, bendable foam and soft "egg crate" foam (small recycling fee)
- NO FOOD CONTAINERS (trays, to-go clamshells, cups, egg cartons, etc.)**



NO OTHER PLASTICS ARE BEING ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME (NO film plastic, miscellaneous hard plastics, or agricultural plastics).

Corvallis Grocery Stores

See each listing for contact information.

Plastic film accepted at the Republic Services Depot

(see left) can also be recycled at these grocery stores:

- Fred Meyer**, 777 NW Kings, 753-9116
- Grocery Outlet**, 1755 NW 9th, 752-3045
- Safeway**, 450 SW 3rd, 750-0160
- Safeway**, 590 NE Circle, 753-2966
- Safeway**, 5270 SW Philomath Blvd, 738-2100
- WinCo**, 2335 NW Kings, 753-7002



Coming up next time...

Reducing Plastic Waste

Handout coming in Fall 2013

As you can see, many plastics are not accepted for recycling locally and must be landfilled.

So how do you stop it at the source, to avoid getting plastics in the first place?

In Fall 2013, check out the next handout from your neighbor, which will be all about reducing plastic waste in your life!

If you have suggestions that work for you, please share them with us by 9/15/13 via info@sustainablecorvallis.org.



Info current as of July 2013, but can change at any time; phone numbers are provided above. Guide created by the Waste Prevention Action Team of the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition; printing sponsored by Republic Services of Corvallis. For more info, please visit <http://sustainablecorvallis.org/action-teams/waste-prevention/>