

# Recycling Just Got Easier

## Now You Can Recycle All Plastic Bottles

### Recycling Plastics Can Be Confusing!

In the past, Denver residents have been asked to recycle just #1 PETE and #2 HDPE plastic bottles.

#### The Issues:

- These numbers are often difficult to find.
- Tubs, bags and trays are also labeled with the #1 PETE and #2 HDPE numbers but are generally not accepted for recycling in residential recycling programs.

#### What's New

Denver Recycles is not changing the materials that are recycled, instead

we are simplifying the message to make recycling plastics easier for you. Plastics currently make up the largest amount of contamination in Denver Recycles' program. That means we have to sort out plastic bags, tubs, trays and other non-bottle plastic containers before the plastic bottles can be recycled. Since 95 percent of all plastic bottles are #1 PETE and #2 HDPE bottles, we believe that by simplifying the message for you we will reduce the amount of unwanted plastics collected and actually increase the overall amount of the plastics that we can recycle.



Recycling programs around the country that have changed their message to "all plastic bottles" have seen, on average, a 13 percent increase in the amount of recyclable plastics collected and a decrease in the amount of non-bottle contamination.



So forget about the numbers, just put all of your plastic bottles in your purple recycling bin and we'll take care of the rest.

### What's a bottle?

- Check for the neck. Recycle all plastic bottles and jars with an opening smaller than the base (or widest part).
- Bottles generally have screw tops.



- Remove and throw away caps, lids and pumps.
- Empty contents. You don't need to remove labels.
- Flatten plastic bottles so they take up less room in the recycling bin.



- Place uncapped and flattened empty plastic bottles in your recycling bin with your glass bottles and jars, steel cans and aluminum cans.

# Do Include

these kinds of empty bottles



## Kitchen

Soda, Milk, Water  
Juice  
Syrup  
Ketchup  
Cooking oils  
Jars with necks, like peanut butter



## Household Cleaners

Liquid dish soap  
Liquid household cleaners (window, bathroom and kitchen)



## Bathroom

Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Liquid Soap  
Mouthwash  
Lotions  
Pump Hair spray



## Laundry

Liquid laundry detergent  
Bleach  
Liquid fabric softener



## Beverage containers at home and on the go.

Soft Drinks  
Teas  
Sports drinks  
Water

# Don't Include

these kinds of plastic items

- Bags, film or wraps
- Toys
- Medical supplies
- Large plastic items
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Solvent, paint and adhesive containers
- Tubs such as yogurt and margarine
- Pails, such as ice cream
- Flower pots and garden plastics
- Food storage and microwave containers

# So Where Do Your Plastics Go?

Recycled plastics are turned into many cool products. For example, your soda bottle could become carpet, a fleece, pillow stuffing, a t-shirt or a new plastic container. And, your milk jug could become a plastic lumber used to make a deck or a park bench.

Buying recycled products is an important component of recycling. "If you're not buying recycled, you're not really recycling." Buying recycled products helps to create the markets for the recyclable materials that you set out at the curb. Next time you are at the store check for recycled products and recycled packaging. If a products says it contains post-consumer plastic, that means it is made from recycled materials collected from residential recycling programs just like ours.

To find recycled plastic products visit:

<http://recycledproducts.plasticsresource.com/>

## QUESTIONS? (720) 865-6805

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For more information about recycling in Denver visit our web site at [www.DenverGov.org\DenverRecycles](http://www.DenverGov.org\DenverRecycles)

