

Recyclers' Corner

January 2009 Issue



[Editor's Note: Recyclers' Corner is a periodic news column sponsored by Denver Recycles, a program of Denver Public Works/Solid Waste Management. It includes updates on seasonal and ongoing activities related to the City and County of Denver's recycling programs. Editors are invited to publish all or part of the column; however, we request that you run major edits by our staff to ensure accuracy of the information. Questions may be directed to Charlotte Pitt or Tom Strickland at Denver Recycles, 720-865-6815.]

E-cycle Coupon Program to Help Denver Residents Recycle Electronics

The City & County of Denver, in partnership with Best Buy and Guaranteed Recycling Xperts (GRX), is now offering an **Electronics Recycling Coupon Program**. The E-cycle Coupon will allow residents to drop-off their televisions, monitors and other electronic items at GRX's recycling facility at a significantly discounted rate. Residents may request an E-cycle coupon by visiting Denver Recycles online at www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles or by calling 3-1-1.

The E-cycle coupons are for residents living in the City & County of Denver only and there is a limit of one coupon per home. Only a limited number of E-cycle coupons will be available and coupons will have an expiration date. Electronic items will need to be brought to GRX's facility during normal working hours and residents will need to present the coupon on arrival.

Recycling fees with the E-cycle coupon are as follows:

Recycling Fees	First Item with coupon	Additional items with coupon	Regular Price (without coupon)
Monitors	\$5	\$8	\$12
TV's	\$10	\$15	\$15 to \$40
Other electronics and small appliances	\$2	\$2	\$5

GRX has signed the Basel Action Network (BAN) pledge which states they will not engage in the exporting or "dumping" of e-waste, or in the use of prison labor in their recycling process. The Basel Action Network is an international non-profit organization that monitors the international trade of toxic wastes.

Please note that **most televisions currently in use will not need replacing** due to the February 17, 2009 switch to digital broadcasting. **Only residents using an antenna with their television (either rooftop or "rabbit ears") will be affected by this change and purchasing a converter box will prevent the need to replace a television. Televisions connected to cable, satellite or other pay TV services will not be affected.** If you must replace a television, the City & County of Denver encourages residents to recycle their old televisions and other electronics by participating in the Electronics Recycling Coupon Program and not throwing electronics in the trash. Like most electronic waste, televisions and monitors contain hazardous materials such as lead. When these items are broken they can release these hazardous materials and spread them to trash collectors and the environment.

To request an E-cycling coupon, visit Denver Recycles online at www.DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles or call 3-1-1. For more information about other Denver Recycles programs call 3-1-1 or visit us online at DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles.

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Recycling Myth Busters: Learn the Truth.

Part 1 of 12

There are a lot of myths about recycling passed along from person to person. We are here to explain some of those myths, so you can be the best recycler possible.

Myth: If a plastic container has a recycling symbol on it, then it is recyclable.

FALSE. The recycling symbol on containers represents the general category of plastic that material is made from, but not if the container is recyclable. So, **a recycling symbol on a container does not guarantee that container is recyclable locally.** Plastics vary greatly by their resin types and how they are manufactured. There are also two common manufacturing processes: plastic bottles are “blow molded,” whereas, most plastic tubs are “injection molded.” As a result of the different resin types, the different manufacturing processes, and the different mixes of chemical additives (dyes, plasticizers, UV inhibitors, softeners, adhesives and more) plastics melt at different temperatures, have different physical properties and as such need to be recycled differently.

Once plastics are separated into their varying categories they must then be shipped to a recycler. The distance to these plastic markets can be large and the cost to ship certain types of plastic to distant processing facilities may simply be more expensive than the material's value. Some markets are very limited and are overstocked with plastics for recycling.



In Denver, we have access to reliable and stable markets for plastic bottles only. While there are markets for some plastic tubs, they are currently unreliable and often expensive. When you recycle the correct items in your Denver Recycles cart we guarantee that your materials will be recycled. If we were to accept additional plastic containers like tubs, we can not be confident at this time in our ability to consistently recycle them. As such, a decision was made not to add these items to our list of acceptable recyclables until the markets become more stable and we can guarantee that they get recycled.

All PLASTIC BOTTLES are accepted for recycling in the Denver Recycles program. Don't worry about the numbers inside the recycling arrows on the containers. “*Simply, check the neck.*” Bottles have a neck or opening smaller than the base of the container. Most bottles and jars also have a screw-on top (for example: milk, juice, soft drink, detergent bottles and peanut butter jars). If you are unsure whether an item is a bottle, the screw top is a good rule of thumb and generally a good indicator that it is a bottle. For example the big, bulk laundry detergent bottles that are square are considered bottles because they have a small screw top opening. Remember to crush your plastic bottles to make more room in your cart for other recyclables. Please, no plastic bags, cups, lids, tubs, trays or clear clamshell containers.

Stayed tuned to learn the truth to next month's recycling myth. For more information about Denver Recycle programs, please visit us online at DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles.

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