

City Adds to Plastic Recycling

Recently the Board of Aldermen passed a resolution expanding the scope of our plastic recycling program. In addition to the #1 and #2 plastics already part of the program, plastics designated as #3 through #7 (with some exceptions, noted below in bold type) have now been added. Just rinse all recycling material, place it in your green recycling bin and leave it at the curb on your trash collection day. City crews will take care of the rest!

Not sure what these numbers mean? The number on the bottom of plastic containers tells what type of plastic it is, and if it can be recycled.

#1 PETE (polyethylene terephthalate) – Found on soft drink bottles, water bottles, beer bottles, mouthwash bottles, peanut butter containers, salad dressing and vegetable oil containers. These containers are generally recycled into Polar fleece, fiber, tote bags, furniture, carpet, paneling, straps, and occasionally, new containers.

#2 HDPE (high-density polyethylene) – Found on milk jugs, juice bottles; bleach, detergent and household cleaner bottles; shampoo bottles; some trash and shopping bags; motor oil bottles; butter and yogurt tubs; cereal box liners. These containers are generally recycled into laundry detergent bottles, oil bottles, pens, recycling containers, floor tile, drainage pipe, lumber, benches, doghouses, picnic tables, fencing. HDPE is a versatile material and is readily recyclable.

#3 PVC – Found in Window cleaner and detergent bottles, shampoo bottles, cooking oil bottles, clear food packaging, wire jacketing, medical equipment, siding, windows, piping.

#4 LDPE (low density polyethylene) – Found in squeezable bottles; bread bags, frozen food containers, dry cleaning and shopping bags; tote bags. **Bags are not recyclable at this time.**

#5 PP (polypropylene) – Found in yogurt containers, syrup bottles, ketchup bottles, caps, straws, medicine bottles.

#6 PS (polystyrene) – Found in disposable plates and cups, meat trays, egg cartons, carry-out containers, aspirin bottles, compact disc cases. **Foam products (Styrofoam) are not recyclable at this time.**

#7 (mixed or miscellaneous plastics) – Found in three- and five-gallon water bottles, 'bullet-proof' materials, sunglasses, DVDs, iPod and computer cases, signs and displays and some food containers.