

## **PLASTIC RECYCLING**

### **EXPLAINED**

There's currently much confusion on which plastic items go into the recycling bin. Only BOTTLES and JARS are always recyclable. Don't worry about numbers just be sure to give a quick RINSE.

The recycling symbols, triangles with numbers inside, on plastic packaging and containers are on all plastic items... from bottles to toys. The number defines the chemical formula of the plastic resin. Unfortunately, plastic manufacturers chose a triangle to put their number in and not a box or circle. We see the recycling symbol and consider it a green light to put it in the bin. Nope.

Not all plastics are created equal! Most plastic items cannot be placed in your recycling bin. Bottles and Jars consistently pass the test.

There have never been so many plastic items in our daily lives. But finding a market, a factory that remanufactures these plastics into useable items is extremely difficult and often impossible. Many of these everyday plastics hold food items such as bakery and berry boxes, frozen food trays, snack and fruit cups.

Do they have a triangle with a number inside? Yes, they do, but no market.

Generally speaking, when wondering if a plastic item can go into your recycling bin just ask yourself if it is a Bottle or Jar. When in doubt, throw it out.

Be sure to look for a #1 or a #2 on the container as these are the types that most municipalities will accept for recycling. As usual, please remember to always rinse out the bottles and jars before placing them in your recycling containers. By doing this you will help these items get farther down the recycling chain instead of spreading contamination, causing all items to end up at the landfill.

Still not sure if your town takes them? Give the municipality a call before discarding.



