

Cordova Plastics Recycling

Recycle all #1 and #2 plastics, including:



Plastic Soda & Water Bottles



Milk & Detergent Jugs



at the freight containers behind the
Native Village of Eyak offices

Sorting Basics!

In the #1 plastics containers:



- ✓ Soda bottles
- ✓ Water bottles
- ✓ Clear plastic containers



Empty and clean all bottles and remove lids before recycling.

In the #2 plastics containers:



- ✓ Milk jugs (plain and yellow)
- ✓ Detergent jugs (any color)
- ✓ Shampoo containers



Empty and clean all bottles and remove lids before recycling.

Frequently Asked Questions

What do the codes on the bottom mean?

The little recycling triangle on the bottom of most plastic containers and many other plastics is called an SPI code. This code was developed by the Society of the Plastics Industry (SPI) to help consumers and businesses easily identify the resin type. This helps for recycling purposes but the code identifier is not meant to indicate that the material is “recyclable”. The industry chose to put symbols on the six most common resins plus an “other” category to capture the numerous other resins and the blends that are used. Even though the plastic resin in a milk jug and a butter tub may be the same, the molding process to make them is quite different. A milk jug is blow molded, like blowing a bubble, and a tub is injection molded, like stamping two molds together. To use each molding technique, different chemicals must be added to each plastic resin to make it melt and flow correctly. These added chemicals make the resins incompatible in most recycling processes because they no longer melt at the same rate. Melting is an important phase of the plastics recycling process.

Why aren't all types of plastics recycled?

Only a few types of plastics are generated in large enough quantities to make recycling them economically feasible. The biggest recycling end markets are for soda bottles and milk jugs since we generate so many more of them than any other type of container. Until cost effective processing and manufacturing is put in place for other types of plastics, they will continue to be a contaminant in our plastics recycling program.

Why can't plastic bottle caps be recycled?

Bottle caps are made of a different plastic resin than the containers. They are usually made of #4 PP (polypropylene) because this material is more rigid than the other resins and works well for the strength needed for a beverage cap.

Can I recycle plastic bags, too?

No, plastic bags have a different melting point than #1 and #2 plastics. Please do not put plastic bags in the container vans. You can recycle plastic bags at the AC Value Center.

Why do cities in other states collect more types of plastics?

If you have lived in or visited other communities, you may have noticed that some of them do not ask for so much sorting in the plastics recycling program. Rest assured, these communities are not recycling more types of plastics, they just have the luxury of sorting facilities. For the most part, any plastics that we are asking you to sort out are being sorted out at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in these other communities. We are not a sorting facility, we only bale and ship materials. Therefore, we all need to be diligent and sort our

Where do plastics go after we drop them off?

Plastic bottles, jugs and film are baled by type and shipped to Seattle to be sold to recycling brokers, who sell them for use in a variety of new products. These may include fleece clothing, t-shirts, sleeping bag and jacket filling, plastic car bumpers and other auto parts, office supplies, recycling bins, trash bags, grocery bags, and flower pots. Plastic resins collected together, such as mixed films, are often manufactured into plastic lumber or composite wood/plastic lumber, which is used to make decking, fencing, docks, foot bridges, picnic

“At least I’m recycling...”

You are only recycling if you sort the plastics properly and put them in the correct plastics recycling bin. If your plastics are contaminated or if you put materials into the wrong bins, it could create unnecessary trash since the entire bale must be discarded if unsorted plastics are not found before shipment. Please help us reduce our waste stream and keep Prince William Sound beautiful by making plastics recycling in Cordova a success.

