

UNDERSTANDING PLASTIC RECYCLING

in the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG) Towns



Just because something is labeled with a recycling symbol does not mean that it is recyclable! Unfortunately, a lot of plastic has no feasible market and should not be put in a recycling bin.

When recycling is done right, it generates materials that have value. Please help by putting only acceptable items in the recycling bin:



- **NO Plastic Bags & Films** *BUT* you can recycle them in the collection bins at most grocery & big box stores



- **NO Medical Waste** like syringes, tubing, or other devices



- **NO Small Plastics** everything should be at least 2 inches on at least 2 sides



- **No Plastic Without a Recycling Symbol** like toys, CD cases, or VHS tapes

PLEASE Rinse all containers!

DID YOU KNOW?








When you put things into the recycling bin that can't be recycled, someone needs to sort through and remove them which increases labor costs and can be dangerous. Once removed, it ends up in the trash so you may as well recycle right and put it in the trash to begin with.

Consider recyclability at the point of purchase. Unfortunately, many things that seem like they “should” be recyclable are not. Just because something is plastic, doesn't mean it's recyclable.

More and more grocery stores and restaurants are using clear clamshell containers made from #6 plastic and other takeout containers that are not recyclable. **Advocate for the use of only packaging and takeout containers that can be recycled in your local system!**



OK TO PUT IN THE RECYCLE BIN?	#2 ONLY	# 1 & #2 ONLY	#1, #2 & #5 ONLY	MUST BE ALL 4: - LABELED #1 - #7 & - RIGID PLASTIC (NOT FLEXIBLE) & - A CONTAINER (HELD A LIQUID OR SOLID) & - NO STYROFOAM™
TOWNS (what a town can recycle can change - check with your town for updates)	Avon/Phillips Farmington Jay Hartford Lincoln Plantation (Adamstown, Cupsuptic, Richardstown, Lynchtown, Parkertown) Oxford Strong Weld Wilton	Canton Mechanic Falls	Kingfield New Sharon	Andover Auburn Bethel/Hanover/Newry Buckfield/Sumner Byron/Mexico/ Rumford/Peru/Dixfield/Roxbury Carrabassett Valley Carthage Chesterville Eustis Gilead Greenwood/Woodstock Leeds Lewiston Lisbon Livermore Livermore Falls Minot New Vineyard Norway/Paris Otisfield Poland Rangeley Sabattus Wales West Paris

PLASTIC TYPE	
 PETE	Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET or PETE)
 HDPE	High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)
 PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)
 LDPE	Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)
 PP	Polypropylene (PP)
 PS	Polystyrene (PS)
 OTHER	Mixed (Other)



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This document was developed by NEWMOA with input from the Project Partners:

- Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG)
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME DEP)
- Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD)
- Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC)

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