

# UNDERSTANDING PLASTIC RECYCLING

in the Northeast Kingdom  
Waste Management District (NEKWMD)

*Just because something is labeled with a recycling symbol does not mean that it has a feasible market for reuse! Unfortunately, a lot of plastic has no feasible market and cannot be accepted in the recycling bins by the NEKWMD.*

When recycling is done right, the NEKWMD generates materials that have value. Help your community maximize revenue by recycling only acceptable items:

- **NO Plastic without a recycling symbol** - all plastic must have a recycling symbol!

And regardless of the recycling symbol:

**PLEASE:**

- Rinse all containers
- Remove screw-top caps from beverage containers and throw them in the trash

## YOUR TRANSFER STATION ATTENDANT IS THERE TO HELP

They know what can and cannot be recycled and what to put where. Please cooperate with their instructions.



- **NO Black Plastic of ANY Kind** (even if it's got an accepted number recycling symbol)



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



- **NO Large Plastics** - everything must be two (2) gallons or less - no plastic totes, cat litter buckets, or 5-gallon pails

















- **NO Plastic Flower Pots** or any gardening containers



- **NO Rigid Plastic** like toys, CD cases, or VHS tapes



- **NO Plastic Bags & Films** - you can recycle them in the collection bins at Price Chopper, Hannaford, and Shaws

OK TO RECYCLE?	PLASTIC TYPE	USED TO MAKE	ISSUES
	 <b>PETE</b> Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET or PETE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disposable water bottles</li><li>• Personal hygiene containers such as mouthwash bottles</li><li>• Food packaging such as peanut butter, oil and dressing containers</li><li>• Some takeout food containers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>NO</b> black plastic</li><li>• <b>NO</b> containers larger than 2 gallons</li></ul>
	 <b>HDPE</b> High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Personal hygiene containers such as shampoo, conditioner and body wash bottles</li><li>• House-hold cleaning product containers such as laundry detergent and bleach</li><li>• Food packaging such as milk containers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>NO</b> black plastic</li><li>• <b>NO</b> containers larger than 2 gallons (includes cat litter buckets)</li></ul>
 <b>Generally NO!</b> Only small items can be accepted	 <b>PVC</b> Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some food product containers like for ketchups and salad dressings</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vinyl is a toxic chemical</li><li>• Many harmful chemicals are produced in the manufacturing and disposal of PVC</li></ul>
 <b>NO!</b> Thin film-plastics can be taken back to grocery stores like Shaws, Price Chopper & Hannaford	 <b>LDPE</b> Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thin-film plastic store bags</li><li>• Thin-film food packaging such as bread bags</li><li>• Cling film</li><li>• Trash bags</li><li>• Bubble wrap</li><li>• Six-pack rings</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thin-film plastics are those that stretch when you try to put your thumb through them</li><li>• <b>CLEAN &amp; DRY</b> wood pellet bags &amp; gardening soil bags can be put in the grocery store collection</li></ul>
 <b>Generally NO!</b> Only Food-grade containers that are less than 2 gallons can be accepted	 <b>PP</b> Polypropylene (PP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some clear plastic takeout food containers</li><li>• Personal care items such as deodorant or lotion containers</li><li>• Prescription medicine bottles</li><li>• Food packaging such as yogurt cups</li><li>• Cloudy plastic containers such as baby bottles and straws</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>NO</b> black plastic</li><li>• Food-grade means containers that held food or beverages (please rinse) or personal care products</li><li>• <b>NO</b> cleaning product containers!</li></ul>
 <b>Flexible or Clear NO!</b> <b>Rigid Foam YES!</b> at SOME locations	 <b>PS</b> Polystyrene (PS)	<p><b>Rigid foam - also known as “Styrofoam” like:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disposable Coolers</li><li>• Packaging (rigid)</li><li>• Meat trays</li><li>• Egg cartons</li></ul> <p>Rigid foam is accepted from ALL NEKWMD Residents at the Recycling Center in Lyndonville</p> <p>Rigid foam is accepted from Residents-only at the following local transfer stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Barnet</li><li>• Brighton</li><li>• Cabot/Marshfield</li><li>• Danville</li><li>• Glover</li><li>• Greensbroro</li><li>• Groton/Ryegate</li><li>• Lyndon</li><li>• Morgan</li><li>• Newport Center</li><li>• Westfield</li></ul>	<p>Make sure your rigid foam recycling is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Clean &amp; Dry</b></li><li>• <b>Tapes &amp; Labels Removed</b></li></ul> <div><div><b>NO Flexible Foam</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Packing peanuts</li><li>• Pipe insulation</li><li>• Pool noodles</li><li>• Packaging (flexible)</li></ul></div><div><b>NO Clear #6</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clear clamshell takeout containers</li><li>• Disposable cutlery</li><li>• CD cases</li></ul></div></div>
 <b>NO!</b>	 <b>OTHER</b> Mixed (Other)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Container lids</li><li>• Electronics</li><li>• 5-gallon water jugs</li><li>• Some clear plastic cutlery</li><li>• Some baby bottles and sippy cups</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No #7 plastics of any kind</li></ul>

## REGULATING PLASTICS IN VERMONT

Vermont has two key plastic and recycling laws:

### 1. Single-Use Plastic Law

[<https://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid/materials-mgmt/single-use-products-law>] that limits stores and food service establishments from providing customers with many single use plastics including:

- Plastic bags
- Plastic Straws
- Plastic Stirrers
- Expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam)

### 2. Universal Recycling Law (Act 148)

[<https://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid/universal-recycling>] that bans putting easily recyclable products in the trash.

**Recycling is mandated for: #1 and #2 plastic, glass, aluminum and steel, paper and cardboard.**

Unfortunately, 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 are recyclable in the NEKWMD!**

## DID YOU KNOW?

When you put things into the recycling container that can't be recycled or put them in the wrong place, someone working at the transfer station needs to sort through and remove them which is time consuming and can be dangerous. If they stay in the bin, they can ruin the whole lot and that could mean it all ends up disposed in the landfill.



**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**

Choosing items made from plastic that can be accepted for recycling by NEKWMD saves resources such as water, energy and landfill space in addition to reducing air pollution and other waste generated from the creation of new plastics.

\*For more information, visit [www.newmoa.org/projects/plastics-in-consumer-products-food-service](http://www.newmoa.org/projects/plastics-in-consumer-products-food-service)



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

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