

# PLASTIC RECYCLING



## Understanding the “Dos” & “Don’ts”

*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

## 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.

These plastics are generally not wanted in the recycling bin - **BUT** might be OK in some locations - make sure to check before putting them in:



- **NO Black Plastic**

















- **NO Large Plastics** - everything should be 2 gallons or less



- **NO Plastic Flower Pots** or any gardening containers - start a swap in your community!

**PLEASE Rinse all containers!**

OK TO PUT IN THE RECYCLE BIN?	PLASTIC TYPE
	 <b>PETE</b> Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET or PETE)
	 <b>HDPE</b> High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)
 <b>NO!</b>	 <b>PVC</b> Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)
 <b>NO!</b> Thin film-plastics can be taken back to most grocery and big box stores	 <b>LDPE</b> Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)
 <b>MAYBE</b> check with your local municipality	 <b>PP</b> Polypropylene (PP)
 <b>NO!</b>	 <b>PS</b> Polystyrene (PS)
 <b>NO!</b>	 <b>OTHER</b> Mixed (Other)

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!**



NORTHEAST WASTE MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION

[www.newmoa.org](http://www.newmoa.org)



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

- Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District
- Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

This material is based on work supported under a grant by the Rural Utilities Services, United States Department of Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Rural Utilities Services. The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect those of NEWMOA, USDA, the Project Partners, or the NEWMOA-member states.