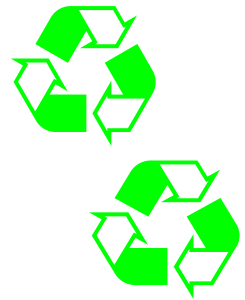


Recycling Plastics Right!



Recycle all three:
Plastic Soda & Water Bottles
Milk & Detergent Jugs
Plastic Bags & Films

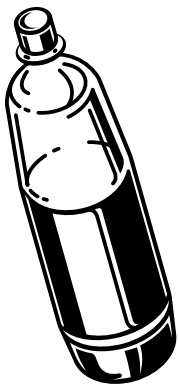


at the Anchorage Recycling Center
6161 Rosewood St.

Exit west off Seward Highway at Dowling, turn just past NAPA

24-hour drop-off!

Sorting Basics!



In the "Soda & Water Bottles" Bin

Soda bottles (any color)

Water bottles

Clean and empty

No caps, **no** bottles that contained harsh chemicals, hazardous materials, or automotive products, **no** plastic tubs, buckets, pots, baskets, or any types of plastics besides soda or water bottles.

In the "Milk & Detergent Jugs" Bin

Milk jugs (plain and yellow)

Detergent jugs (any color)

Clean and empty

No caps, **no** bottles that contained harsh chemicals, hazardous materials, or automotive products, **no** plastic containers of any type besides milk and detergent jugs.



In the "Plastic Bags & Films" Bin

Grocery bags, Newspaper sleeves, Shrink wrap, Stretch wrap

Dry cleaner bags, Plastic wrap. **No** food-contaminated bags



Anchorage Recycling Center

A Smurfit-Stone Recycling Company

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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.

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. Our Recycling Center is not a sorting facility; it only bales and ships materials. Therefore, we all need to be diligent and sort our materials properly. This actually provides Anchorage residents with the benefit of learning what really is and isn't recycled so we can make more educated purchasing decisions to avoid nonrecyclable products and packaging.

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 tables, and benches.

“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 leave materials at the recycling center when no bins are available, you are only creating headaches for recycling center employees, generating unnecessary trash (all plastics are discarded if not sorted or left outside a bin), and jeopardizing the future of plastics recycling in Anchorage for everyone.