

Plastics Recycling

We get a lot of questions about what goes into the commingled recycling. To try and answer that question in depth, each customer newsletter will focus on one material.

Even the strongest markets for recycled materials have seen a decline over the last several months. As a result, it is more important than ever to keep our recycling "stream" clean, by preparing materials correctly and keeping contaminants out.



We know people are most confused by plastics, and with good reason. The plastics industry developed a clever system to identify the resin group a plastic product is made from. The familiar chasing triangle with a number is on most plastic items on the market. While it's universal and one we all recognize, it doesn't really tell you that an item can be recycled, just what its chemical composition is. The single most important fact in determining whether or not a material will be recycled is demand. Demand is low right now for most plastics. Consumers are not buying as much as they were a year ago. Factories, domestic and foreign, are not producing at the level they did a year ago. This has some positive ramifications in the long-run, but for recycling, it creates a slow down. Because we collect large amounts of recycling, nearly 7,000 tons of commingled recycling in 2008, we accept materials that have a steady market, in good times and in bad. We are not removing any materials from the curbside recycle stream.

The following plastics can be recycled in your tan cart:

Plastic Bottles. Bottles are defined as a plastic container that has an opening which is the smallest part. They may be clear, like a water bottle or solid as a lotion bottle.

Plastic Jugs. Jugs are just a bottle with a handle. They are most often solid like a detergent container, but may be clear like a syrup jug.

Plastic Tubs. Tubs are containers like those that sour cream and yogurt come in. They are a flexible plastic that is solid. When you squeeze them they do not make a crunchy sound.

Plastic Jars. Jars are containers that things like mayonnaise and peanut butter come in. They are usually clear and rigid.

Other plastics we can accept are **Nursery Pots** and **Buckets**. These should be smaller than five gallons in size. Larger items can jam in our trucks.

Clear plastic 'clamshell' type containers are not recyclable in our system. This is one of the most common forms of contamination, simply because it is used so often to package food and other items and people have a hard time throwing it out. For now it must be left out of the curbside recycling. If you have a choice, *Precycle*, and choose the item in a recyclable container. A good example is to buy grapes loose in the produce section rather than in a clear plastic box.

A note about plastic lids. Even though we put everything together in the commingled cart, recycling must be sorted into like materials. Plastics are sorted by hand. Very small items like bottle lids are



just too small to get sorted out. Plastic lids should only be included in the recycling if they are large enough to be sorted out, like a tub or bucket lid. If you forget

and leave a lid on a bottle, don't worry, the bottle will still be recycled. To find out more about the recycling process, go to www.sanitation.com and click on the link for *Saving Little Pieces of Our Earth*. It's a video, showing the sorting process that recycling goes through and the end use of recycled materials.



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Cart Placement

It can get a little crowded on trash and recycling collection day along the street and curb. Simplify the process for our trucks by: Leaving at least 4 feet of space between carts and other obstacles like mail boxes. Making sure your carts are placed with the handle facing the house.

Removing your containers from the street as soon after collection as possible. We appreciate our customers help in making this process work.



Spring Recycle Round up

May 16, 2009

8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

1214 SE Montgomery

The annual Allied Waste Spring Recycle Round-up is set and this year it's a part of the Big Pick up, an Albany citywide event with, the Allied Recycle Round-up, Down by the Riverside river clean-up, neighborhood clean-ups & a community litter patrol, all taking part on the same day.

The Recycle Round-up will take place at Allied Waste. Residents can bring yard debris, non-pressure treated wood, scrap metal, appliances, computers & televisions to be recycled at no charge.

Benton Furniture Share and the Habitat ReStore will be on hand to collect furniture and building materials that can be reused, so take advantage of this "one-stop-shopping" opportunity to get a jump on your spring cleaning.

Compost!

It's time to think about backyard composting. To find out how to get started, visit the Master Gardener Demonstration site at the Linn Co. Fairgrounds.



OREGON E-CYCLES

Here's How.....

Many of our customers are aware that Allied Waste has been accepting electronic waste for recycling for the past five years, but the new program initiated by the State of Oregon has brought notoriety to this issue. That, coupled with the digital television conversion has more than doubled the total amount of material we collected in 2008. Nearly 72 tons of e-waste was dropped off at our Albany office in the last year, an increase from the 21 tons collected in 2007.

Under the product stewardship law, enacted in January 2009, the companies making computers and televisions are responsible for some of the cost of recycling these products. There is now no cost to our customers for this service.

Along with the obvious cost savings to consumers, the environment wins too, with tons of heavy metals and other hazardous materials now being recycled or disposed of in a safe manner.

To recycle your computer, television or printer, just come to our office at 1214 SE Montgomery in Albany. Leave your electronics in your car and you will be directed to the drop off location to place electronics in the correctly marked box. It's just that simple. Collection is available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Recycling Report Card

It's been almost a year since we began using the tan carts for recycling and a good time to report how we are doing. The news is good. We are seeing a steady 18% increase in the total amount of commingled recycling. The reasons for the increase seem to be ease of use and increased education about what can go into the recycling.



Online Bill Pay

The fastest way to pay your Allied Waste bill is to use our online bill pay system. To get started: go to www.disposal.com click on online bill pay at the top or bottom of the page if you are new to the system, click on "sign up" on the left side of the page Follow directions on the screen Be sure to have your account number and zip code handy. Don't use dashes when entering account number.



Contact Us:

Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
1214 SE Montgomery St.
Albany, Oregon 97322
at: 541-928-2551 or
Harrisburg: 541-995-6414
After hours, leave a message and we will call you back.
or find us on the web at:
www.sanitation.com
for on-line bill pay option:
go to www.disposal.com