

Plastic Bag Recycling

Plastic bags and films can only be recycled in specially marked bins in stores – not in curbside recycling bins. Local stores with bins in their lobby:

Price Chopper, Shaws, Stop and Shop, Target, Walmart and Wegmans. When you drop the bags in the store bins, turn the bags inside out to ensure they are empty, dry and clean.

CAN I PUT BAGS IN MY CURBSIDE RECYCLE BINS?

- Plastic bags get caught in recycling machinery causing worker safety hazards.
- Plastic bags can easily blow out of your recycling bin becoming litter, entering waterways, becoming tangled in trees, and harming wildlife.

CAN I RECYCLE ALL KINDS OF PLASTIC BAGS?

- Only certain types of plastic bags are recyclable. If you put a bag from the NO list it can contaminate the whole batch and it must be discarded

DO NOT include the following:

- NO** food or cling wrap.
- NO** prepackaged food bags.
- NO** frozen food bags or prewashed salad bags.
- NO** painted film or excessive glue.
- NO** biodegradable bags.
- NO** heavy-duty bags from wood stove pellets, soil & sand.
- NO** chip bags, candy or granola type.

OTHER TIPS

Bring your own reusable bags to the store. They are often stronger and more durable than the flimsy plastic. Wash the bags out occasionally.

Re-use grocery store bags as garbage can liners or to collect pet waste.

Bet you didn't know that many bags are recycled into composite lumber such as Trex.

You can knit or crochet with plastic bags. Lou in Western Mass. makes some great recycled bags. Check out her products and ideas www.lousupcycles.com. For more about plastic bag recycling, visit www.plasticbagrecycling.org.

