

Town of Bethlehem

Plastics Recycling Guidelines



Please be careful to **ONLY** recycle accepted items! **LAST UPDATED 4-22-23**

ACCEPTED ITEMS:

Please rinse well. Only recycle **CLEAN** plastic items.

- **Bottles:** Water or soda bottles (or return for deposit)
Laundry detergent bottles
Shampoo, conditioner, and liquid soap bottles
Salad dressing, vinegar, syrup, ketchup, mustard bottles
- **Jugs:** Plastic milk and water jugs
- **Tubs:** Tubs from yogurt, butter and nut butters (if cleaned well), cottage cheese, etc.
- **Caps/lids:** Screw caps on bottles, put lids back on dairy tubs; otherwise discard)
- **Bulky:** Bulky rigid plastics such as old, cleaned recycling containers or garbage cans
Large hard plastic toys (cut large or outdoor toys/slides etc. to fit in curbside bin/cart)
Clean Plastic buckets, pails, milk crates, etc.
- **Cartons:** "Cardboard" juice and milk cartons are recycled curbside, or with plastics at the transfer station



NOT ACCEPTED (please reuse, or discard):

- **NO Polystyrene/"Styrofoam" containers** (NOTE: Styrofoam blocks may be brought to Shelter Enterprises in Cohoes to recycle. Call them: 518-237-4100).
- **NO Plastic Bags or "Plastic Film"** (bubble wrap, overwrap, etc. unless your hauler accepts
NOTE: Recycle plastic bags and other plastic film at large grocery and retail stores)
- **NO "Compostable" or "Bio-degradable" plastics** (While these "PLA" or plant-based plastics are often still more eco-friendly overall than petroleum based plastics, they aren't recyclable since they compromise the structural integrity of products made with recycled plastic. Reuse, or discard. We do NOT accept them at our compost facility either, as they take too long to compost and can also often become contaminants).
- **NO "Black plastics"** (take out containers, lids, etc. that are made with black plastic are not recyclable because they blend in with the conveyor belts at the sorting facility. Even if sorted properly there are not good markets for recycled black plastic. Black plastic cannot be recycled into any other color plastic resin which decreases its value as a material. It also can contain harmful chemicals. Discard and avoid.
- **NO Small Items** (Anything smaller than about 2"x 3" by itself will literally fall through the cracks at the recycling sorting facility. Medication containers, loose bottle caps, etc.
- **NO plastics which are soiled, or contaminated with anything hazardous** (e.g., NO motor oil containers, NO pesticide containers, NO peanut butter tubs you can't get clean, etc. NOTE: In addition to machinery, people are usually dealing with your recyclables along the line, often by hand. So **please clean them well!**)

