

Plastics Recycling at the Park Slope Food Coop



Frequently Asked Questions

Our Coop plastics recycling program is gaining momentum! Here's how you can do your part:

Why should I bring plastics to the Coop? Why can't I recycle them at home?

The NYC Department of Sanitation only accepts plastic in the form of bottles and jugs (with necks narrower than the bodies) for recycling. That's a tiny percentage of the tons of plastic thrown away in NYC on any given day. Our Coop Recycling Squad collects plastics that NYC does NOT accept for recycling, including wide-mouth containers, dry cleaner film and plastic bags. (Think how many of *those* you go through in a given week!)

Why can't I drop off my plastics any time I work or shop at the Coop?

The Coop does not have the space to store plastics in between collections, or the capacity to check for insect and mold contamination (see below). As more Coop members participate in our monthly collections, we may be able to expand squad hours to other days and times during the month. Meanwhile, we'll be waiting to receive your plastics on every second Saturday of the month between noon and 2:00 p.m., every third Thursday of the month between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., and every last Sunday of the month between 10 a.m. and noon.

How can I tell if a plastic container or lid is recyclable through the Coop?

If it's a plastic bag or clear plastic film, we take it—as long as it's CLEAN & DRY. Otherwise, look on the bottom of the container or lid for a number inside a triangle of three rotating arrows. If the number is 1, 2 or 4—or if a plastic tub, cup, lid or cap carries the number 5 (see below)—CLEAN & DRY the plastic, and bring it to the Coop during one of our three monthly collection times. Please don't bring us plastic bottles or jugs; put them in the proper containers at home for regular city collection.

What if there's another number (3, 6, or 7) – or NO number on the bottom?

Unfortunately, that means we can't accept it at the Coop at this time. We are working with other environmental advocates in and out of the Coop to deal with the problem of plastics that are not currently recycled.

Why do I have to clean and dry the plastics before bringing them?

Contamination by insects and mold can turn otherwise recyclable plastics into ordinary trash. Every day in NYC, 50,000 tons of trash are carted through our streets; all of the trash is now diesel-trucked to out-of-state landfills. Meanwhile, billions of tons of trash accumulated over more than 50 years remain in the Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island. This landfill covers 2,200 acres, can be seen with the naked eye from space, and is taller than the Statue of Liberty. You can do your part in helping to stem this tide of trash by insuring that everything you bring to our Recycling Squad is CLEAN & DRY.

What kinds of #5 plastics are accepted for recycling?

Our #5 plastics collection is a pilot partnership with Recycline, the Massachusetts manufacturer of Preserve brand products, since no one local currently accepts these plastics. We have just expanded the pilot program: Recycline is now accepting both clear and opaque #5 plastic tubs and cups, as well as specifically marked #5 container lids, bottle caps and jug caps! You can check out Recycline's products at www.recycline.com.

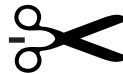
Where do the other plastics go after the Recycling Squad collects them?

Members of our squad pick up our #1, #2 and #4 plastics at the end of each collection and bring them to AAA Polymer, a Greenpoint recycler. Among other items, AAA Polymer makes a heavy-gauge clear plastic garbage bag sold at Home Depot. ■

Did we say...

CLEAN & DRY!

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When

- 2nd Saturdays, noon–2:00 p.m.
- 3rd Thursdays, 7–9:00 p.m.
- last Sundays, 10:00 a.m.–noon

What

- **Plastics #1, 2, 4:**
—only those *not accepted by NYC*
- **Plastic #5:**
—tubs, cups & specifically marked lids & caps
- **Plastic bags and clear plastic film**

How

- All **Clean & Dry!**

