

Plastics & Glass

Washington's Recyclables

Plastics

The symbols on or near the bottom of a plastic container are plastic resin codes. They do not necessarily mean that a container will be collected by your local recycling program. Markets vary for particular types of plastics.

Source: Spokane Regional Solid Waste System



What can recycled plastic be used for:

- Recycled PET, from recovered drink bottles, can be used in producing new food and beverage bottles, deli trays, carpets, clothing, textiles, automobile parts, and strapping for bricks and lumber.
- Recycled HDPE, from recovered plastics such as shampoo bottles and milk cartons, can become new bottles for laundry products and motor oil, recycling bins, agricultural pipe, bags, garden edging, decking, and plastic lumber.
- Recycled LDPE, or plastic film, can be used to manufacture bags, compost bins, and plastic lumber.
- Recycled PS, or polystyrene, can be used in products including office accessories, garden nursery supplies, and protective package cushioning.

Source: The American Chemistry Council



Two soft drink bottles can make a baseball cap, when recycled into polyester fiber.

Source: The Society of the Plastics Industry

Nineteen PET bottles yield enough fiber to make an extra large t-shirt or a square foot of carpeting.

Source: NAPCOR



Presented by the WSRA
Education Committee.



Plastics & Glass

Washington's Recyclables

Glass

Glass recycling is a closed-loop system, creating no additional waste or by-products.

Over a ton of natural resources are conserved for every ton of glass recycled.



For every six tons of recycled container glass used, a ton of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, is reduced.

Glass bottles and jars are 100% recyclable and can be recycled endlessly without any loss in purity or quality.

Source for all the information above: The Glass Packaging Institute

Most glass manufacturers rely on a steady supply of recycled crushed glass, known as “cullet,” to supplement raw materials. To make glass, manufacturers mix sand, soda ash, limestone, and cullet.

Source: U.S. EPA

Cullet can be used for things such as bead manufacturing, fiberglass, insulation, roadbed aggregate, and decorative tile.

Source: U.S. EPA



Visit these websites for more information on “buying recycled.”

- The Society of the Plastics Industry — www.plasticsindustry.org
- National Association for PET Container Resources — www.napcor.com
- The American Chemistry Council — www.americanchemistry.com/s_plastics/index.asp
- U.S. EPA — www.epa.gov/osw/conserves/materials/glass.htm
- The Glass Packaging Institute — www.gpi.org/recycleglass/
- The Clean Washington Center — www.cwc.org/glass.htm