



Information About Recycling Plastics in the City of Spokane

City of Spokane contracts with the SMaRT Center to sort and process single-stream recycling materials. The facility is owned and operated by the private company Waste Management. The City began single-stream recycling collection in 2012, and the cost of the curbside service is included in customers' monthly solid waste collection fee. Recently, there have been questions from the community about recycling plastic materials.

Q: What happens to recyclables after they are picked up from my curb on collection day?

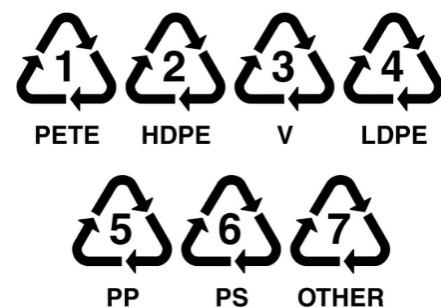
A: The City of Spokane Solid Waste Collection Department provides curbside services to retrieve recyclable materials in the blue cart. Materials are delivered to the SMaRT Center, where contents are sorted and packaged for resale.

Q: What does the term "contaminated" cart or load mean in recycling?

A: Contamination is any material that is not listed as "acceptable" on the cart lid. Loads that contain significant unacceptable materials may be rejected, preventing recyclable materials from being sorted and packaged for resale. All acceptable items are on the cart label and can be found on the City Solid Waste website.

Q: What plastics are recyclable?

A: To keep it simple, we have described acceptable plastics as "bottles, jugs, tubs – NO LIDS". Plastics are generally classified by numbers 1 through 7. Although many plastics are technically recyclable, there are limited markets for some materials. It is important to pay attention to the list of acceptable plastics included as part of your curbside service. The City of Spokane currently accepts plastics 1 through 7.



Q: What happens to plastics that are recyclable?

A: Once plastics are separated and bound together by type of, they are sold as reusable material. For these materials to be sold, there must be a demand by manufacturers who can process them to make new products. The recycling market has changed over the years and there is less demand for some plastics. When a suitable resale market cannot be identified, plastics are processed through the Waste to Energy facility. Currently, recycling options for plastics 3 through 7 are more limited, and they may be disposed of as garbage. Efforts are under way to find new recycling markets for those plastics.

Q: Should I change what plastic items I am putting in my blue recycling cart?

A: As the SMarT Center continues to work to identify markets for these materials, residents are encouraged to continue recycling items that are identified on the lid of their blue cart. Customers will be notified if there are changes to the list of acceptable materials in the future. The City is working to find short-term solutions, while supporting long-term extended producer responsibility policies requiring manufacturers to invest resources for environmental responsibility for the products and packaging they push out to the market.



CLEAN RECYCLABLES ONLY

GLASS	PAPER	METAL	PLASTIC	NOT ACCEPTED
 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bottles & Jars – NO LIDS  <p>Questions? Visit Recycling Services</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newspaper• Corrugated Cardboard• Magazines & Catalogs• Office Paper• Junk Mail• Cereal & Pop Boxes• Non-Coated Paper Products	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aluminum Cans• Tin, Steel Cans• Aerosol Cans – EMPTY, NO LIDS OR TIPS	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bottles, Jugs & Tubs – NO LIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Garbage✗ Plastic Bags✗ Styrofoam✗ Food Contaminated Items✗ Microwave trays✗ Ceramics & Dishes✗ Light Bulbs✗ Window Glass & Mirrors✗ Hazardous Waste Containers✗ Syringes✗ Un-numbered Plastics✗ Lids✗ Batteries✗ Electronics✗ Sharp Metal✗ Coated & Laminated Paper Products



Please allow 3 feet between carts and around cars.



PLEASE REMEMBER:

- ✓ Empty & Rinse Containers
- ✓ Flatten Cardboard to Fit into Cart with Lid Shut

For a complete list of acceptable materials, please visit my.spokanecity.org or call 311.

Department of Solid Waste



For more information about curbside recycling services visit the [City's website](#).