

Recycling Plastics

Why we care

Dealing with plastic waste is a conundrum. Some of it is recyclable curbside; some can be transported to a depot; and some must go into the trash.

- Recyclable curbside: bottles, tubs, rigid plant pots (at least 4"), buckets (no more than 5 gallons)
- Recyclable at depots: bags, clamshells, boxes, trays, lids
- Trash: Styrofoam and other plastic packaging with no number (inside chasing arrows) on the bottom

Simple, positive change

1. Prevent waste in the first place:
 - Avoid buying products that come in plastic that cannot be recycled curbside. Purchase meat at a counter and request paper wrap.
 - When you can't, leave packaging in the store and tell sales clerk why you are doing so. Return block styrofoam to the store.
 - Choose restaurants and cafeterias that use durable dishes. Take your own containers for take-out food.
2. If plastic packaging is not acceptable curbside but it has **number on the bottom or is a lid**, deliver it to Far West Fibers (503-643-9944). According to experts, for every five pounds of plastic recycled, you could **drive eight miles (round trip) to a depot and still save energy!**
 - 12820 NE Marx St., Portland
 - 4930 SE 26th, Portland
 - 2005 N. Rosa Parks Way, Portland
 - 341 Foothills Rd., Lake Oswego
 - 6440 SE Alexander, HillsboroOr call 503-823-7202 to see if your Portland neighborhood has a spring cleanup that accepts numbered plastic.
3. Note that styrofoam is no longer accepted at the depots. Call Metro at 503-234-3000, or check [Find a Recycler](#).

Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@earthleaders.org.