

What Am I What Am Recycling? Recycling?

Here is some information that may clear up some of your questions about what you're recycling and why you're not recycling some things.

PLASTIC

Many types of plastic may be recycled. Plastic recycling is difficult for the recycling processors because plastics cannot be mixed. The industry is increasingly coming up with new ways of processing this material to make it easier. The cryptic markers seen on the bottom of plastic containers is one way of identifying the types of plastic. These markers do not mean the plastic can be recycled, or, do not mean the container uses recycled plastic. These markings only identify the plastic type. Not all types can be recycled.

Types 1 & 2 are the common types mostly in container form and type 4 is usually in bag form. Code 7 is for mixed or layered plastic with virtually no recycling potential. **Here at West Point we recycle all plastic containers from gallon size on down.**

Plastic Containers should be marked with a large and clear recycling code. This code must be molded into the plastic and located on the bottom of the container. Often the caps are not made of the same plastic material. Caps should be separately marked, but few are. **At West Point we ask that containers be rinsed and caps removed.**

Plastic grocery bags are common and are usually made from plastic type 2 or 4. **West Point collects plastic bags at the commissary, P.X. and Recycle Center.** Plastic bags are commonly used to make plastic lumber.

Glass, Aluminum Cans, Foil and Other Metals

Glass bottles must not be mixed with other types of glass such as windows, light bulbs, mirrors, Pyrex or auto glass. Clear glass is the most valuable. Mixed color glass is near worthless, and broken glass is hard to sort.

Aluminum cans are recycled. New York State has a bottle redemption law. **West Point has a bottle redemption area located behind the Shopette (Class VI).** Other types of aluminum cans may be recycled in the co-mingle containers along with glass and plastic products.

It is not necessary to remove labels. To save water, clean only enough to prevent odors.

The most common metals recycled at West Point are Aluminum cans, Steel (tin) cans and Stainless Steel.

Aseptic Packaging (Drink boxes, paper milk containers)

The square boxes used for liquids are called “Aseptic”; the most common brand is the “Tetra Pac”. Aseptics are made from complex layers of plastic, metal and paper. The aseptic recycling process is very expensive and difficult, only recently has Orange County added this product to the list of materials for recycling. **These containers should be placed in your “Yellow” co-mingle container.**

Paper Products

It is important to know what you are buying in a paper product. Most paper products have markings with the percentage of recycle content, (50% recycled paper, 35% post-consumer). Just saying, “recycled paper” is not enough. “Recycled Paper” could mean anything from 100% recycled paper to 1% re-manufactured ends of large paper rolls. “Post-consumer” means the paper that you and I returned to recycle centers. From a recycling point of view, the more “post-consumer” paper the better.

Most types of paper can be recycled. Newsprint, Office paper and Cardboard are the largest in volumes recycled here at West Point. Other paper products “Mixed Paper” include color paper, phone books, magazines, junk mail, notebook paper, and just about any paper product you can imagine. **West Point residents have a “BLUE” container to recycle all their paper products.**

DO NOT recycle food contaminated paper, waxed paper, oil soaked paper, carbon paper, sanitary products or tissues, thermal fax paper, plastic laminated such as fast food wrappers. Much of your gift-wrapping paper is not recyclable because of the combination content such as paper, metal, plastic combinations.

“White Goods”

Most older refrigeration, Heat Pumps & Air Conditioner equipment contains Freon, a chemical known as a Chlorinated Fluorocarbon or “CFC” for short. Each molecule of a CFC can destroy over 100,000 molecules of the earth’s protective ozone coating, leading to increased risk of sunburn, cataracts and skin cancer for the entire population of the planet.

Most communities charge a fee for disposal of these products to cover the cost of recovering the CFC’s to safely dispose of the item. **West Point residents may dispose of the items at no cost. Items may be brought to the Transfer Station or disposed on “garbage day” by placing a “trash’ sign on the item.**

RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

Nickel Cadmium rechargeable batteries (NiCad's) contain cadmium, a metal that causes blood and reproductive damage, among other problems. These batteries are commonly used in portable telephones, power tools, radios and video tape recorders. Several states prohibit consumers from dumping these batteries into the normal trash stream. These batteries pose little hazard in use but create a danger in landfills. Most batteries will have a warning and recycling logo. Many electronic stores such as Radio Shack have collection boxes. **Here at West Point residents may drop off hazardous materials such as the NiCad's at the HAZMAT office located off StoneyLonesome road.**