

# Did You Know? Plastics Recycling in Montgomery County

What do the numbers on plastic bottles, jars and containers mean? The number identifies the type of plastic it is made from - not if it is actually recyclable in Montgomery County. Below are examples of the types of plastics that can be recycled in your blue bin. **Important: Plastic bags are not accepted for recycling in the blue bins. Please do not place recyclables in plastic bags.**



Examples: Plastic bottles from soft drink, water, juice, alcoholic beverages, mouthwash, ketchup and salad dressings. Jars from peanut butter, jelly and pickles. Microwaveable and oven-safe food trays. #1 PET clear clamshell containers. Empty and rinse. Leave caps off (place loose caps in blue bin).



Examples: Plastic bottles from milk, juice, cosmetics, shampoo, dish and laundry detergents, and household cleaners. Empty and rinse. Leave caps off (place loose caps in blue bin). **No plastic bags\*.**



Examples: Plastic rigid clamshell containers, cooking oil and shampoo bottles. Empty and rinse.



Examples: Plastic squeeze bottles such as honey, mustard, mayonnaise, etc. Plastic lids from containers. Empty and rinse. Leave caps off (place loose caps in blue bin). **No plastic bags, wraps, and air-filled packing pillows\*.**



Examples: Plastic containers and tubs from yogurt, butter, margarine, deli foods. Plastic bottles from medicine and prescription pills, ketchup and syrup. Reusable food containers. Empty and rinse. Leave caps and lids off (place loose caps and lids in blue bin).



**No #6 plastics accepted!** Examples: Foam or rigid plastic cups, plates, bowls, cutlery, clamshell containers, meat and poultry trays; foam coolers; foam packaging from furniture, electronics and other items; packaging peanuts; or rigid plastics such as compact disc cases and video cassettes.



Examples: Plastic 3- and 5-gallon reusable water bottles, bottles for citrus juice and ketchup. Empty and rinse. Leave caps off (place loose caps in blue bin). **Items labeled "compostable" or "PLA" are biodegradable and should not be placed in your blue bin.**

**Important:** \*Plastic bags, film or shrink wrap are not accepted for recycling in your blue bin. These can be recycled at many local grocery stores and some retailers. Do not put recyclable materials in plastic bags for curbside recycling.\*

Note: Rigid plastics, such as toys, lawn furniture, baskets, etc. can be recycled as a drop-off item at the Montgomery County Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station. **Do not** place these plastic items in your blue bin.



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
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For more information visit  
[MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/recycling](http://MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/recycling)  
or call 311 or 240-777-0311.