

Plastic Bag and Film Recycling

1. What's the best way to recycle plastic bags?

The best way to recycle your bags/film is to take them to a grocery or retail store. Most grocery stores, and retail stores, such as IKEA, Wal-Mart and Target, have collection containers for plastic bags and film. This option ensures that the items stay clean & dry and prevents them from damaging equipment at the curbside recycling processor.

TIP: Reduce the amount of plastic bags you have by using reusable bags. It really adds up!

2. Why shouldn't I put them in my recycling container?

Loose bags, and even bundled bags, can get wrapped around recycling equipment and jam the screens at the processor. Bags can do A LOT of damage to the curbside recycling processor equipment.

3. Do the grocery and retail stores actually recycle the plastic bags?

Yes! Many collection locations are contracted with companies that specialize in recycling plastic bags and film to make plastic 'wood' decking. Their processing equipment is specifically designed for plastic bags and film, which helps to ensure that the bags stay clean and dry.

4. What items are included in 'plastic bags and film'?

Plastic bags and film include:

- Grocery/retail bags
- Mattress/furniture covers
- Newspaper bags
- Bread bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Plastic wrap from toilet paper rolls, napkins, paper towels, bottles of water, etc.
- Produce bags
- Frozen vegetable bags
- Food storage bags (please be sure these are empty and lightly rinsed if needed)
- Bubble wrap
- Air filled bags for packaging
- Any other clean, dry bags/film

Not sure if your bag or film can be recycled?

Do the stretch test! If you can stretch the plastic film/bag pretty easily, you can recycle it. If the plastic is crinkly or does not easily stretch, it should go in the trash. The plastic wrap from CD cases is a good example of crinkly, non-stretchable plastic that should be trashed.

Howard County does not endorse vendors or services.



www.HowardCountyRecycles.org
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