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From: Niagara County Division of Environmental/Solid Waste [recycling@niagaracounty.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 2:14 PM
To: barkervillage@roadrunner.com
Subject: What plastics are recyclable?

WHAT'S THE STORY WITH PLASTICS RECYCLING?

The list of acceptable plastic for curbside recycling may surprise you!

Our recycling carts are part of the solid waste solution, but we have to be sure we are recycling correctly. Now more than ever before we need to rethink our plastics recycling. Everything we put into our bin or cart goes to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where it travels along conveyors and sorted by a variety of sophisticated devices before preparing for resale. Non-recyclable materials and excessive food residue that end up on these conveyors are causing serious problems and as a result, are increasing the processing costs to manage our recycling. Non-recyclable plastics and food residue are bogging down the system and making processing more expensive, but also degrades the "good" stuff.

curbside recycling program. By following the quick guide below, we all can become better recyclers!

WHAT PLASTICS GO IN THE CART...

As consumers we can make decisions about items we regularly purchase based on if the packaging is suitable for recycling. Many of the plastics we use are designed for "single use" and it is these plastics that unfortunately are not recyclable AND find their way into our open waters.



PLASTIC BOTTLES

Recycle these!

In New York, all carbonated beverages and water bottles have a deposit. Return these for a nickel, but recycle all sugared beverages and milk bottles.



OTHER PLASTIC BOTTLES

Recycle these!

Please clean out all these condiment, soap and cleaner bottles before putting them into your recycling container!



POLYSTYRENE

Not Recyclable

Also known as styrofoam. This is not recyclable, despite the "arrows" on the bottom. Many states and communities across the county have banned polystyrene because it cannot be recycled and is a litter nuisance.



PLASTIC WRAP

Not Recyclable

We find wraps on a variety of store bought items, such as veggies, meats and fruits. These thin films get caught in machinery and lead to frequent mechanical issues at the MRF. And, there are far too many variations to effectively recover in a curbside program.



PLASTIC CLAM SHELLS

These containers are called "molded" plastics, which are usually designed for a single use and not recyclable in a curbside program. These items include the packaging for a supermarket rotisserie chicken, meal to-go containers, and various fruit and vegetable packages.



FLEXIBLE PACKAGING

Not Recyclable

These items include bagged foods that can be resealed, snack food bags and/or children's squeeze pouches. Because these products can flatten out while on the conveyors at the MRF, they are often incorrectly sorted. Even if they could be recycled, there is no end buyer for the material.



PLASTIC TUBS

Double Check with your

These containers include yogurt tubs, sour cream and soft butter, as well as some cheeses. They are often marked with the #5. Some local haulers accept and others do not as the market place for these items is tricky.



PLASTIC BAGS

Not Recyclable Curbside /
Can go to Store

Plastic Bags will soon be banned in New York, but right now you can take them to any retail location that provides merchandise in a plastic bag. You can also add all thin films and take back to the store as well. These items cannot go into your recycling at home.



NIAGARA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL/SOLID WASTE

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