

What Happens to Your Blue Box Material?

Plastic

There are seven different types of plastics used in consumer goods. Each type of plastic is coded with a number inside of the mobius loop. Each number corresponds with a type of plastic.

1- **PETE** (Polyethylene Terephthalate) - commonly found in food and beverage bottles. Ex. Pop bottles. One of the largest uses of recycled PETE bottles is fibre for carpets, blankets, upholstery and stuffing for ski jackets, cushions, mattresses and sleeping bags. Other uses for recycled PET are packaging applications (such as new bottles), sheet (e.g., for use in billboards) and engineered resins (e.g., automotive parts).

2- **HDPE** (High-Density Polyethylene) – commonly found in food and beverage bottles as well as personal care bottles. Ex. Milk jugs, juice jugs, shampoo bottles. Recycled HDPE bottles are used to make detergent and motor oil bottles, binders, fencing, plastic lumber, trash cans, recycling bins, drainage pipes, drums and pails, matting, milk bottle carriers, industrial pallets, bathroom stalls, traffic barrier cones, flower pots, golf bag liners, kitchen drain boards and hair combs.

3- **V** (Vinyl/Polyvinyl Chloride) – commonly used in clear deli food packaging and vegetable oil bottles. There currently isn't a market for recycled Vinyl bottles

4- **LDPE** (Low Density Polyethylene) – commonly used in grocery shopping bags. Recycled polyethylene bags are used to make shopping and garbage bags, floor tile, furniture, compost bins, trashcans and plastic lumber.

5- **PP** (Polypropylene) commonly found in margarine and dairy tubs. Recycled plastic tubs are used to make auto parts, patio furniture, indoor and outdoor carpeting, crates and boxes, measuring cups, apparel, toothbrushes and hairbrushes, etc.

6- **PS** (Polystyrene) –commonly found in foam cups, egg cartons, clear take-out containers and cutlery. Recycled polystyrene is used to make CD trays, videocassette cases, insulation boards, license plate frames, cafeteria trays and desk supplies like rulers.

7- **Other**- commonly found in bottles that contain several different types of plastics. There currently isn't a market for this type of mixed resin bottle

Paper

There are several different types of paper that can be found in the municipal waste stream.

They are: Newsprint, Cardboard, Boxboard, Fine paper, and Magazines

Recycled paper is used in the manufacture of many different things such as:

- different kinds of paper
- paperboard products such as boxboard
- container board
- corrugated cardboard
- linerboard, newsprint
- sanitary papers
- specialty papers
- wallpaper
- tissue paper
- kitty litter,
- absorbent used for oil spills
- insulation

Cardboard

The main characteristic of corrugated cardboard is the wavy inside layer sandwiched between layers of linerboard.

Roughly 68 per cent of old corrugated cardboard is used to make new corrugated containers. However, it is also used for the production of other goods such as:

- kraft paper used by manufacturers for bags and wrap
- tubes and core board used by manufacturers for tissue toweling, gift wrap, and textiles
- boxboard containers
- gypsum wallboard liner and roofing felt used in home renovation and building
- packaging materials used for shipping and sale of breakable objects such as fluorescent light bulbs and china
- flower pots and biodegradable gardening supplies used by greenhouses and garden outlets

Aluminum

Aluminum is found in such recyclable items as pop cans. Aluminum is recycled to make other aluminum products. Some examples are beverage and food containers, foil, pie plates, frozen food trays, candy wrappers and even car bodies. Aluminum is good to

use in these products because it doesn't rust, it's easily formed into many shapes and it's strong but lightweight.

Steel

Steel is found in many food cans (i.e. soup or vegetable cans) They are often called tin cans. You can differentiate between steel and aluminum cans by simply using a refrigerator magnet. The magnet will stick to a steel can. Recycled steel is used to make food cans, paint and aerosol containers, appliances, bicycles, cars, buses, ships, railroad engines, cranes, bulldozers, tractors, bridges and building structures. All of these products contain recycled steel. Steel provides strength, durability and affordable products, which are 100% recyclable.

Glass

Glass is used to package many food products: juices, jellies, vegetable oils, baby food, and so on. Glass makes up about five percent of the municipal solid waste stream by weight, two percent by volume. You cannot recycle all glass products. Light bulbs, ceramics, glass mirrors, windowpanes, and dishes are not made with the same materials as glass jars and bottles, so they should not be mixed in with glass recyclables.

Glass is usually recycled to make other glass, such as bottles and food jars, but it is made into other products such as fibreglass insulation and other building materials. Recycling glass uses less energy than making virgin glass, which is made from sand, soda, and lime. Using recycled glass uses 30 percent less energy than making products from all new materials. Today, almost 26 percent of the glass we produce is recycled.