

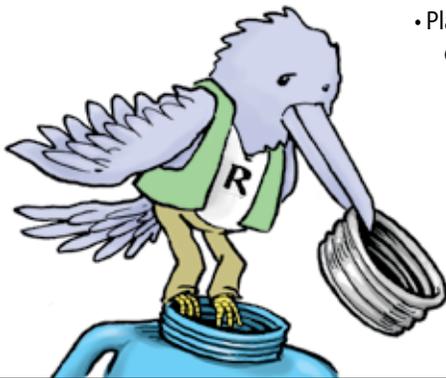
The Other Three R's: Rinse – Remove – Resist

Rinse bottles and cans before recycling.

- **Hint:** Fill your empty peanut butter jar with hot water and soak over night, pour out half the water, put the lid back on, shake vigorously, and pour the residue down the drain. Now the jar is ready to recycle!



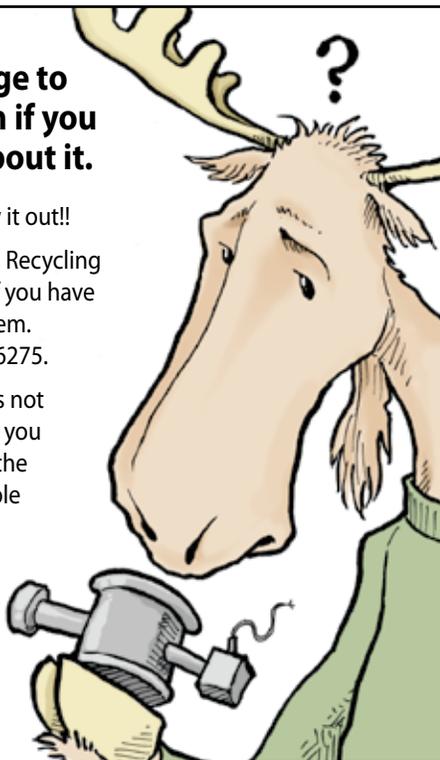
Remove all caps and lids.



- Plastic caps should be discarded – they are not recyclable.
- Metal screw lids from glass jars and lids from steel cans can both be recycled with steel cans.

Resist the urge to recycle an item if you are not sure about it.

- When in doubt, throw it out!!
- Call the Municipality's Recycling Coordinators to ask, if you have questions about an item. Call 343-6274 or 343-6275.
- Since Anchorage does not have sorting facilities, you are the only sorter in the process! Non-recyclable materials bring down the value of everything else, making recycling less economical.



Those Pesky Plastics!

What plastics are recyclable in Anchorage?

If you look into the recycling bins at the recycling center, you may get a sense that all sorts of plastics are recyclable. They're not. Only certain plastics are accepted for recycling and contamination of the plastics bins with nonrecyclable plastics continues to be one of the biggest issues at the recycling center.



So here are the rules and the reasons:

First, look for the plastic resin symbol on the bottom of your plastic container – it's the number inside the small "chasing arrows" recycling symbol with a few letters below it. The resin coding system goes up to #7 but you are only looking for #1 (PET or PETE) and #2 (HDPE). But you're not done yet.

Next, look at the shape of the container. To be recyclable, it must have a screw top, with a neck. Remember, check for the neck!



For an easy rule, remember that the vast majority of containers in this category are **water and soda bottles** in the #1 category and **milk and detergent jugs** in the #2 category.

Why aren't other plastics recyclable?

Even though all plastics with the same number start with the same plastic resin, different chemicals are added during manufacturing to mold them into different shaped containers. For example, produce and bakery trays are molded differently than water and soda bottles, even though both are made with #1 PET plastic. This means they cannot be melted back together during the recycling process. Because there are so many more bottles and jugs compared to the other types, like clamshells, tubs, buckets, berry baskets, yogurt cups etc., these are the only types of plastics that are being recycled economically in most communities.