



# Plastics Recycling

Plastics are commonplace. From shopping bags and food containers to drink bottles and packaging materials, we use plastics everyday. It is important to use them responsibly and dispose of them appropriately. Many people are confused by the different types of materials and what can or cannot be recycled.

Important facts:

- The chasing arrows symbol found on the bottom of plastic products is an indication of the type of plastic, not that they are recyclable
- Most rigid plastics are recyclable through Davis Street's curbside programs

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
 Davis Street recycles over 14 million pounds of plastics per year.

**MATERIAL MATTERS**  
 In 2008, over 234,000 pounds of plastic materials were deposited in Alameda County landfills.  
**Recycling Tip:**  
 Keep plastic lids on plastic bottles for recycling.

**Davis Street Resource Recovery Complex**  
 2615 Davis Street  
 San Leandro, CA 94577  
 Hours of Operation:  
 MON – FRI: 7:00 am – 5:00 pm  
 SAT: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
 SUN: Closed

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**Material:** Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)  
**Used For:** Soda & water bottles, peanut butter jars and cooking oil bottles.  
**Recycled Into:** Fleece, carpet, polyester products  
**Where:** Georgia



**Material:** High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)  
**Used for:** Milk bottles; detergent bottles, some plastic bags  
**Recycled Into:** Plastic lumber, curbs, trash cans  
**Where:** China



**Material:** Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)  
**Used for:** Salad dressing, detergent, shampoo bottles, toys, pipes  
**Recycled Into:** Vinyl flooring, billboards, carpet backing  
**Where:** China

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# Plastics Recycling (cont'd)



**Material:** Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE)

**Used for:** Produce and shopping bags

**Recycled into:** Garbage bags

**Where:** China



**Material:** Polypropylene (PP)

**Used for:** Bottle tops and drinking straws

**Recycled into:** Ice scrapers, trays, yard & garden tools

**Where:** China



**Material:** Polystyrene (PS or EPS)

**Used for:** Styrofoam meat and take-out trays, cups, packaging materials

**Not Recycled**



**Material:** Other

**Used for:** This is a catchall for plastics resins or mixes of all of the above in the same product.

**Not readily recyclable**

## **BIO PLASTICS**

**Material:** Plant-based resins often combined with chemical resins

**Used for:** plastic bags, utensils, plates & cups

Not Recycled in the traditional sense that it creates a new product; it breaks down in a relatively short period of time in landfills, something traditional plastic does not do. If composted, the resulting compost does not meet the Organic Materials Review Institute standard for use in organic farming.

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