



Waste Wise

Reduce ■ Reuse ■ Recycle

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WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR RECYCLED STYROFOAM?

Tillamook County residents have the exciting news that we recently obtained a DEQ grant allowing us to purchase a Styrofoam densifier and are now accepting Styrofoam for recycling. But what exactly is a densifier and why are we so excited?

Styrofoam is a number six plastic and recyclable; however, its lightweight properties keep it from being cost effective to do so. Collected in its current state, saving enough Styrofoam to make it worth the effort would take an enormous amount of storage space.

There are ways though to turn it into a more efficient form. It can be cold compacted, or thermal densified. Thermal densification uses heat to melt the material where the cold-compaction uses pressure to squeeze the air out. Tillamook County uses a cold compress densifier.

Loose Styrofoam pieces are fed into the machine where it is broken into fibert-sized pieces and compressed, literally squeezing the air out. It is then extruded into a solid 'log'. The log is cut into manageable lengths and wrapped and stored. In this compressed form, it takes little storage space and is more cost effective to transport and distribute. Cold compaction can reduce Styrofoam volume down to one-fortieth of the original amount.

Tillamook County is excited to have a Styrofoam densifier enabling us to offer recycling for this hard-to-dispose of material. Even though it is not a hazardous material, recyclers are encouraged to bring their Styrofoam to the Household Hazardous Waste events, August 5, September 9, October 7 and December 2 or it can be brought to the Pacific City Transfer Station on Brooten Road in Pacific City during business hours. CARTM in Manzanita also accepts Styrofoam on the first weekend of the month. There is no charge for this service!

Types of Styrofoam accepted at this time include the white bulky kind generally used in packaging but please remove any tape, paper or plastics attached to it. Food trays will be accepted if they are completely clean of any food residue. Packaging peanuts and dirty materials are not accepted. Please pack your materials in a way that makes it easier to handle and contain. Those with excessively large quantities should contact our office to inquire about disposal options.

This is just one more way Tillamook County Solid Waste Department is striving to meet the recycling needs of its residents.

ATTENTION SOUTH COUNTY RESIDENTS:

The Pacific City Transfer Station will be closed on Monday, August 21 in response to concerns regarding the heavier traffic due to the eclipse. Nestucca Valley Sanitary Service will not be running the usual Monday route. Affected services will be moved to August 22. Thank you for your understanding and we hope you have a safe viewing experience.

RECENT MASTER RECYCLER MOVEMENT

Who are the Master Recyclers and what have they been doing? ... "Being a Master Recycler is more than just volunteering," states Sue Owens, Master Recycler program coordinator, "we try to offer opportunities to continue their recycling awareness and education as well." This offering recently came in the form of a full day field trip to Portland on June 28. Master Recyclers who participated were treated to a bus ride to see Portland area reuse venues such as Free Geek, The Rebuilding Center, and SCRAP PDX.

Comments made by the participating Master Recyclers included, "It was fun to see the incredible ways these businesses put excessive and discarded materials to use," and, "It's great the way they turn discarded equipment into usable equipment that can then be recirculated in ways that benefit the community," "I love it that there is a place to come get items I need for my house projects that are being rescued from the landfill," "All in all, it was a great trip and I think everyone came home with an improved or renewed view of reusing materials," says Owens and adds, "the time together also helps the group to get to know each other better."

Master Recyclers are a group of recycling advocates who have attended a 20 hour class on recycling and agree to volunteer 30 hours of service to the County's recycling and other solid waste projects. "We try to offer a couple of local field trips as part of the initial class," Owens notes, "and then follow up with at least one big trip each year. The opportunities are growing as the interest and enrollment in the program grows."

For those interested in attending a Master Recycler class, the next three-day class is scheduled for Friday, October 13 followed by Friday, October 20th and 21st at Tillamook Bay Community College. Interested persons should contact Owens at sowens@co.tillamook.or.us, or 503-842-3419. Information can also be found on the Solid Waste Website at www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste.



Master Recyclers listen during a tour to Free Geek.

BOTTLES, TUBS AND FILMS—OH MY!

For those of us who recycle, many of us have looked at the huge array of plastics and wondered, what is the difference and why do we have to treat them differently? Why can't they just be tossed in the same bin?

The answer is simple, because all plastics are not the same. You've probably noticed the numbers in the recycling emblem on your plastics. These are there to provide a uniform identification of the different plastics to help recycling companies separate them for processing. It also helps us, the consumer, know what to recycle.

Let's Look At Those Numbers ...



Number 1, generally found on soft drink bottles, salad dressing containers, peanut butter and jam containers, is Polyethylene Terephthalate or PET or PETE for short. It is strong and resistant to heat. When recycled, it is remade into polyester products like clothing and fiberfill for winter coats, sleeping bags, and life jackets. Although it can be recycled, PET #1 bottles should not be re-purposed as reusable water bottles.

Number 2 are high-density Polyethylene (HDPE) plastics. These are strong and resistant to chemicals and are often found in juice, milk, and laundry detergent containers. Stretchy plastics, like grocery bags and bread wrappers are also common examples of HDPE. The recycled HDPE is used to make items such as oil containers, plastic lumber, toys, piping, truck bed liners, and rope.

Number 3 PVC, or Polyvinyl, is not typically accepted as recyclable even though it is popularly used for its strength and versatility. It is most commonly found in items such as rigid piping, electrical cable insulation and even vinyl records. Once recycled, it can be ground up and reused to make vinyl flooring, window frames, or piping. (We are not able to recycle PVC in Tillamook County at this time.)

Number 4 is LDPE, or low-density polyethylene. This plastic is known for its strength, toughness and flexibility and most commonly found in items like plastic bags, squeezable bottles and flexible container lids. Most plastic bags are either HDPE or #2 LDPE. Recycled LDPE is used to make products such as garbage cans and furniture. LDPE and HDPE films can be recycled together.

Number 5 is Polypropylene (PP) which is strong, tough, resistant to heat, chemicals, grease and oil, making it useful for reusable microwaveable containers, yogurt and butter tubs, and disposable cups and plates. It has a high melting point making the recycled product useful for items like car battery cases and oil funnels.

Number 6 is Polystyrene (PS), or more commonly known by its "filled with air" form EPS, or Styrofoam. It can be recycled into products such as foam plates and thermal insulation, coat hangers and picture frames. It is most commonly found as egg cartons, packing peanuts, and packing material. (Yes, we can recycle Styrofoam in Tillamook County!)

Number 7 represents the "other" plastics or a miscellaneous sort. Usually imprinted with a number 7 or nothing at all, these plastics are the most difficult to recycle. These are items that have mixed plastics, or rare ones. Items that fall into this category are baby bottles, compact discs, sunglass lenses, etc. It is rare to find a recycling depot that accepts these plastics as recyclables.

In Tillamook County, all but numbers but 3 and 7 are accepted. CARTM in Manzanita also does not accept number 4 film plastics, although they accept other number 4 materials.

So if most of the plastics are recyclable, why can't we just toss them into the same bin?

As we have learned, not all plastics are the same. During the recycling process, different plastics process at different temperatures and use different methods. Some plastics will float in water while others will sink. When different plastics get mixed together, they contaminate the end product so that it won't work as well, or at all, causing much grief and expense to the recycling company, sort of like adding too much salt to your cookie recipe. The end result isn't good. What about bags? They are recyclable plastics yet they are frequently not accepted. The most common reason plastic bags, both number 2 and 4, are not accepted for recycling is because they are difficult to process. The lightweight material flies about during the process and entangles itself in the machinery, costing operators a great deal of time and money to clean it out. Fortunately for us, plastic bags are accepted at several locations in Tillamook County: Pacific City Transfer Station, Tillamook Transfer Station, City Sanitary Service's Recycling Depot, Safeway and Fred Meyer's.

There you have it, a basic overview on plastics and why it is important to separate them. Remember, not all recycling depots take the same materials. If you are unsure, check with your depot for their requirements.

HOW IS PAINT RECYCLED IN TILLAMOOK COUNTY?

You've seen it advertised, and maybe you have even used it, but what makes it unique and special?

"It's really a simple process," explains David McCall, Solid Waste Program Director. "Utilizing latex paint dropped off during our household hazardous waste collections, we basically separate it by color and mix it."

Recycled paint in other places is often mixed together providing only a single color end-product, but Tillamook County takes it a step further, separating the colors in order to offer seven different selections: white, off-white, tan, green, blue, yellow and grey.

When paint comes into the hazardous waste collection, it is first checked for color and quality. Acceptable latex paint is opened, stirred and sorted by color and then emptied through a pair of filters into a 275 gallon tote where it is stored until the container is filled. Depending on the time of year and color, it can be stored for as little as two months; however more often it takes four to six months to fill a tote. "This year has been incredibly busy," states McCall, "we've already mixed 1700 gallons of paint compared to 2016's 1500 gallons, and the year is not over." McCall estimates that another 500 to 600 gallons will be mixed before year's end.

Once the tote is filled, a special mixer is used to blend the paint so that it can be bucketed with consistent colors. Once blending has commenced, the bucketing process begins where 3.5 gallon buckets are filled using the spigot on the tote. "We've streamlined the process so well that a bucket can be filled, labeled and stacked in about 3 minutes," McCall boasts.

"Our first attempt at paint mixing 4 years ago," McCall shares, "was a totally different process, taking many more people and time to accomplish the job. We have definitely streamlined the process." Today, a single person can bucket about 200 gallons of paint in two hours.

Next time you bring your hazardous waste in, take a minute to watch the process and feel free to ask questions.

Most of the initial work is done by staff and volunteers. "The Master Recyclers are a life-saver in this project," adds McCall. "We might be able to do it without them, but it wouldn't be as efficient. We owe a lot to them."

If you are interested in purchasing paint, you'll find the whole selection at CARTM in Manzanita; Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, in Bay City; Pacific City Transfer Station in Pacific City; and at the County Public Works Office in Tillamook. The price is \$24.00 for a 3.5 gallon bucket in seven different colors.



Master Recyclers Roger Miller and Steven Kershaw open paint during a Hazardous Waste Collection event.

RECYCLING TRIVIA

Where did the recycling emblem originate and why? That very recognizable logo with three chasing arrows has been around since the early 1970s. According to various research sites, including Dyer Consequences, Wikipedia and Recycling-Revolution.com, the original emblem was created in the early 1970s as a result of an awareness campaign competition.



A young college student named Gary Dean Anderson designed the chasing arrow emblem we all recognize today based on the premise of the never-ending Mobius strip. The original design was drawn by hand, without any computer assistance and was turned to stand on the narrow edge.



COMMUNITY RECYCLING EVENTS:



Offered to you as courtesy of the Tillamook County Master Recyclers and Tillamook County Solid Waste

NESKOWIN
Neskowin Wayside
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Aug. 19, Sept. 16,
Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16

BEAVER
Beaver Thrift Shop
11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Aug. 17, Sept. 21,
Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21

BAY CITY
Off Hwy 101, by Ortiz Signs
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Aug. 6, Sept. 3,
Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3

GARIBALDI
Next to Parkside Cafe
11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Aug. 6, Sept. 3,
Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3

ROCKAWAY BEACH
3rd Street, By Public Works
8:00 am to 10:00 am
Aug. 6, Sept. 3,
Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3

WHEELER
Next to the Post Office
9:00 am to 11:00 am
Aug. 20, Sept. 17,
Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17

NEHALEM
Downtown Parking Lot
Noon to 2:00 pm
Aug. 20, Sept. 17,
Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17



For more information, call the Tillamook County Solid Waste Department at 503-815-3975 email recycle@co.tillamook.or.us or see us online at www.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste

