

PLASTIC BAG AND FILM RECYCLING FACT SHEET

Plastic bags and film packaging are important durable and lightweight protection for food and merchandise in transit. But these materials SHOULD NOT be recycled in most curbside carts or single

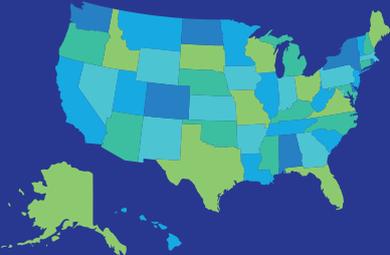
stream programs. Thankfully many grocers, retailers, and some communities provide specific collection bins for bags and film to be recycled separately from other recyclables.

1 Most **clean and dry** plastic film and bags are recyclable at participating retail and local drop-off locations.



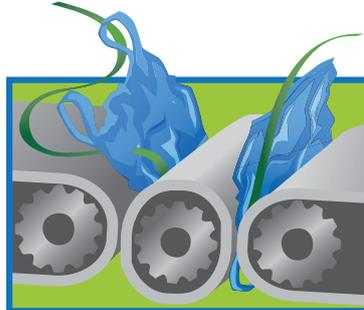
There are over 18,000 drop off locations nationally, including 1,600 in the Carolinas, to recycle plastic bag and film materials.

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Bags and film are not normally accepted in curbside programs because they get tangled in the machines that sort other recyclables such as paper, cans, and bottles.

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In addition to grocery bags, you can recycle items like:

- Plastic Mailing Envelopes and Air Packets
- Dry Cleaning Bags and Newspaper Sleeves
- Produce, Bread, and Food Storage bags (clean and dry)
- Product Wraps from Water Bottles and Paper Goods

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Click here to download this digital badge, to help residents search for a local drop off location.

4



Curbside collected bags and film are generally too dirty after their trip in the back of the recycling truck to be recycled, even if they are collected at the recycling facility.

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Products made from recycled grocery bags and other plastic films include new bags, composite lumber and playground equipment.

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CAN I RECYCLE PLASTIC BAGS AND FILM IF THEY...



...are colored plastic?

YES: the color does not affect the recycling process.



...stretch when I pull it apart with both hands?

YES: this is the correct type of plastic to recycle. If it doesn't stretch or it tears like paper, please throw it in the trash.



...have a paper label or tape stuck on?

YES: but labels, tape and adhesive strips should be removed if possible.



...are made of thicker plastic like a dog/cat food bag or makes a loud crinkly sound (like a chip bag or candy wrappers)?

NO: this plastic film is not recyclable.



...contained frozen vegetables?

MAYBE: this type of plastic is generally not accepted unless it has the How2Recycle label (shown on the right).



...have this How2Recycle label?

YES: brands and retailers are using this label to let consumers know that the plastic film package is recyclable.



...are not polyethylene (PE) or are dirty or wet?

NO: plastic film must be clean and dry PE in order to be recycled. Remove all other materials such as tape, paper receipts, food residue, and crinkly or rigid plastics (bottles and tubs). These contaminants can ruin the quality of the plastic, and may result in it not being recycled.



REMEMBER: REDUCE, REUSE, THEN RECYCLE!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION OR COMMENTS,
PLEASE CONTACT THE CRA STAFF AT:

Carolina Recycling Association
PO Box 1296
Greenville, SC 29602
877-972-0007
staff@cra-recycle.org

Carolina
Recycling
Association



WWW.CRA-RECYCLE.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT PLASTICFILMRECYCLING.ORG