



# Plastic Bag Recycling Program FAQs

- ❖ **What type of plastic is recyclable under the Plastic Bag Recycling Program?** Polyethylene plastic film type material is what we are looking for in this program. These items are generally a softer, somewhat “stretchy” plastic, usually with a less shiny finish. For example, if you were to try to tear a grocery bag or dry-cleaning bag, it would stretch and pull as it tears, giving it a ragged edge. If labeled, it would have a 2 or 4 recycling symbol.
- ❖ **What type of plastic is not acceptable under the Plastic Bag Recycling Program?** Plastics that are harder and “crinkly” that would give a straight finish when torn. Any plastics that have a 1,3,5,6, or 7 recycling symbols. These plastics are made with products that are not accepted in our program.
- ❖ **Are plastic bottles, caps and rings on six-pack beverages acceptable?** No, these items are a different type of plastic and are not recyclable in this program.
- ❖ **Cereal bags are included on the list. Does this mean the plastic bags from regular cardboard boxes of cereal and not the plastic bags that some bargain brand cereals come in?** Yes, that’s correct. Only the plastic bags inside the cardboard cereal bags are acceptable.
- ❖ **Are used FoodSaver bags, that have been adequately rinsed out, accepted?** No, these bags are made from a polyethylene and nylon blend. The nylon makes them unacceptable.
- ❖ **Some breads come in regular plastic bread bags but have a stiffer, sort of cellophane-like, inner bag. Are the inner wrappers accepted too?** No, the inner cellophane type material is not accepted because it is a different type of plastic.
- ❖ **Are plastic cat litter and pet food bags accepted?** Pet food and cat litter bags are made of a different plastic polymer and are not recyclable in our program. Please do not put pet food and litter bags with the recyclable material in our collection bins. Pet and cat litter bags will contaminate all the other plastic materials that are collected.
- ❖ **Can I include hard plastic material with a recycling code of 2 or 4?** No, this program is for soft plastic materials only. No hard plastic materials will be accepted, even if they fall under recycling codes 2 and 4.
- ❖ **I buy lots of food items at the grocery store in small plastic bags with resealable enclosures, such as the bags shredded cheese comes in. Are these bags acceptable?** No, they are not because they do not contain polyethylene. We only accept soft plastic materials that contain polyethylene. Please do not include any plastic bags that are sold with food in them. We cannot accept them and they may contaminate the materials we are collecting.
- ❖ **Are non-clear LDPE (recycle code 4) bags from new TVs and other electronic equipment accepted?** Yes, type 4 plastics are the types we are looking for in this program.
- ❖ **Are plastic bags from mulch, fertilizer, or other lawn materials accepted?** Mulch bags are too dirty and contaminated to be recycled. It is possible that they could be included if the bags are washed and turned inside out to dry. Many people are not willing to put in the extra work. If you wish to include mulch bags, do not include them with your other plastic materials. Drop them off separately so we may inspect them prior to adding to our collection. Fertilizer and other lawn materials are not included and will contaminate collected materials. Please DO NOT include fertilizer and other lawn materials other than clean and dry mulch bags.
- ❖ **Where are collection bins located to drop off plastic bag materials?** Two collection bins are located on the front porch of the Nature Center at 21907 Claiborne Parkway, Ashburn VA 20148. You can drop materials off 24 hours a day, 7 days a week since the bins are outside.
- ❖ **Who should I contact if I’m not sure my plastic material is acceptable in the Plastic Bag Recycling program?** Call the Broadlands HOA office at 703-729-9704, email us at [info@broadlandshoa.com](mailto:info@broadlandshoa.com), or reach out to the Community Outreach coordinator at [julie@broadlandshoa.com](mailto:julie@broadlandshoa.com), and we’ll get an answer to your question as soon as possible.

# SAMPLES OF PLASTICS NOT ACCEPTABLE

