

# Village of Ridgewood RECYCLING NEWS

Winter 2019

Ridgewood



Recycling

*Recycle Right*

## MAKING RECYCLING EASIER

### Recycling is no stranger to Ridgewood residents.

Our friendship has lasted through the ups and downs of an almost 50 year-long relationship. We have recycled through two generations, nine different Ridgewood High School principals, and eight changes in United States presidency.

**Does that make it easier today to recycle than it was when it started? Ironically, the answer is no.** Rules in each community differ and the recycling industry keeps changing; resulting in misunderstandings on what to recycle.

### Do you know what to recycle, and how?

Some residents tell us that they recycle everything. (We can't recycle everything.) Others say that it's confusing. (We agree.) And some of you have almost given up completely.

### Whatever your situation, this newsletter is for you.

Please enjoy our Winter 2019 installment of Ridgewood's Recycling News as we guide you along the road to making recycling easier.

## TECHNOLOGY LENDS A HAND

 *"Did you put out the recycling last night?"*

 *"It's this week? I thought it was next week!"*

 *"What zone are we in again?"*

 *"I'm not sure – just look outside and see if the neighbors put theirs out."*

For residents looking to reduce their household waste, become better recyclers, and avoid the scenarios above, look no further than the Recycle Coach platform, now available in Ridgewood. Residents can access Recycle Coach from their desktop computers, mobile devices, or through digital assistants like Amazon Alexa and Google Home. By leveraging the power of voice technology, the platform makes it easy for people to get local disposal information for thousands of household items when they need it. And the best part:

**IT'S ABSOLUTELY FREE.**

### With Recycle Coach, residents can:

- Stay organized with custom curbside collection and events calendars
- Receive collection reminders and real-time updates on service disruptions
- Become recycling experts with a comprehensive "What Goes Where?" search tool, including local disposal information and collection requirements for common and uncommon items
- Take the "What Type of Recycler Are You?" quiz for useful recycling tips and tricks
- Use the problem-reporting tool, equipped with geolocation, to notify municipal customer services about issues like missed collections

The service takes the guesswork out of recycling, empowering residents to make smarter disposal decisions and take an active approach to reducing household waste. For Ridgewood, this can help increase recycling rates and decrease contamination in the community's recycling stream.



### Make recycling easier TODAY

by downloading the  
**Recycle Coach app** for  
**FREE** at the App Store  
and Google Play.

# DEMYSTIFYING PLASTICS RECYCLING

Plastic, as we know it, is less than 200 years old, but has wiggled its way into every nook and cranny of modern-day life. It's in our mattresses, clothing, automobiles, medical equipment, food containers, and we are going to stop there for the sake of time and space, but as we all know, the list goes on. Plastic even has its own Hall of Fame.

**Then why can't we recycle more of it at the curbside and recycling center?** Simply put, because we aren't able to meet all four of the required criteria for recycling.

For recycling to work, there has to be:

- 1) Collection
- 2) Processing
- 3) Marketing
- 4) Remanufacturing

Recycling is a cycle and if we are not able to move an item through every step of the process, we cannot accept it. Plastics are particularly challenging because there are so many different types and each type of plastic has its own characteristics. In the past, recycling processors would accept a mixture of plastics. They would separate the bottles, jars, jugs, and dairy tubs and would sell the rest as a mixed bundle to a secondary processing facility where they

would further comb through the mixed load to cull out other plastics materials with value. In many cases, those downstream facilities were located in countries where labor costs were lower and environmental regulations were lenient. Times have changed and mixed loads of plastics are not able to make it successfully past steps two and three (processing and marketing) of the process.

**What about the recycling symbol on my plastic container?** Doesn't that mean I can put it in the barrel? Not necessarily. That symbol states what the item is made from, but it does not indicate what it can become. For this reason, it is not a reliable indicator of recyclability.

**But what if the item has the exact same code as the one on a water bottle?** Two items may have the exact same code, but it doesn't mean that we can accept them both. Why not? We like to illustrate it this way: Apple juice, apple sauce, and apple slices all come from apples, but they don't all respond the same way in a recipe. The same is true for plastics. Two items that have the same resin identification code may react differently in the manufacturing process because of the way that they were previously altered. Please help us to Recycle Right by including only the plastics shown below.

## HOW DO WE MAKE PLASTICS RECYCLING EASIER?

### RECYCLE by TERM & SHAPE – not by symbol or number –

Is it plastic and shaped like a bottle?  
**RECYCLE IT.**



Is it shaped more like a plastic jug?  
**RECYCLE IT.**



Would you call it a plastic jar?  
**RECYCLE IT.**



Did it have a dairy product and is tub-shaped?  
**RECYCLE IT.**



If an item doesn't fit this description, we cannot accept it in the curbside recycling barrel or at the recycling center.

**Which PLASTICS go in the tan can?** It's not hard when you have a plan.  
The four terms to remember are: **DAIRY TUBS, BOTTLES, JUGS, AND JARS!**

# WHAT ABOUT...

## PIZZA BOXES?

If your pizza box is grease and oil free, as well as completely empty, it can be recycled with your cardboard. Similarly, if the bottom is greasy, one could rip the box apart at the hinge, throw the greasy bottom section in the garbage, and recycle the clean lid.



## PLASTIC BAGS?

Please take plastic bags to Stop & Shop or Whole Foods Market in Ridgewood. Each store has a recycling container near the store entrance for these items. Plastic bags should never be placed into your recycling barrel.



## PAINT?

Latex paint may be safely disposed of in the garbage when it is dried out. Dry out latex paint by stirring absorbent material such as cat litter into the paint. Once dried, close the can, put the can into a bag, and place the bag at the curb for pickup on your Curbside Bulk Refuse Collection day. All oil based paint and latex paint that has not been solidified may be brought to one of Bergen County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days.



## STYROFOAM?

Tie or bag the pieces to avoid wind loss and place them curbside on your Curbside Bulk Refuse Collection Day. (Clean Styrofoam peanuts may be boxed or bagged and dropped off at the UPS Store located at 50 E. Ridgewood Avenue, Ridgewood, for reuse.)



## SHREDDED PAPER?

There are two convenient options: Bring it to the recycling center and dump the shreadings into the container for magazines, or, put the shredded paper into a cardboard box for pickup on your curbside recycling day.



## E-WASTE?

Please take these items to the recycling center. (TVs, VCRs, DVD players, monitors, computers, printers, desktop copy machines, hard drives, video game consoles, radios, stereos, cellular phones, electronic tablets, e-book readers, etc.)



## WRAPPING PAPER?

Put it in the trash, please.



# 6 TIPS TO A BETTER BARREL

## 1 NO Ceramics, Plates, or Glasses

You can donate them, but please don't try to recycle them.



## 2 NO Tanglers

Plastic bags, wires, garden hoses and hangers damage recycling sorting equipment and reduce sorting efficiency.



## 3 NO Yuck

Food residue is a problem. Please make sure that your recyclables are emptied and rinsed clean.



## 4 NO Sharps

Needles, lancets, and other sharps cause injury to recycling employees. Keep them safe. Keep them out.



## 5 Recycle Plastics by Shape

We take bottles, jars, jugs, and dairy tubs in the barrel, but please - NO other plastics.



## 6 DO NOT Bag

Keep everything loose in the barrel.





203 E. Glen Avenue

Village of Ridgewood  
Division of Recycling  
131 N Maple Avenue  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

PRST STD  
U.S. Postage  
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Paramus, NJ  
Permit No. 908

ECRWSS

Please visit us at our convenient drop-off center  
**Monday - Saturday • 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

POSTAL PATRON

Items accepted at the Recycling Center include:

- Appliances
  - Automobile Batteries
  - Bottles & Cans
  - Clothing/Textiles
  - Food & Beverages Cartons
  - Electronics
  - Metals
  - Papers & Cardboard
  - Tires
  - Yard Waste
- (e.g., soup, broth, milk, juice, wine)

**Note:** No household or bulk garbage accepted.

To learn more about recycling in Ridgewood,  
please consult the **Green Guide**,  
visit [www.ridgewoodnj.net](http://www.ridgewoodnj.net),  
download the **Recycle Coach** app,  
or contact us at **201.670.3373**.

 Printed on  
30% Post Consumer  
Recycled Paper

## A COMMUNITY WORKS TOGETHER



Helen Keller is credited with saying: *"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."*

Willard Elementary School illustrated this truth during their participation in Ridgewood Recycling's 2018 "Closet Clean Up" contest. In just two days, students, parents, and faculty collected **1,800 pounds** of clothing and textiles for reuse and recycling. Principal Caroline Hoffman generated enthusiasm in the Willard community through announcements, e-news, posters in classrooms, and an enthusiastic School Broadcast News video starring two teachers, Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Kearns.

*"Let's show the community that Willard cares about our earth, and others,"* encouraged Mrs. Sullivan. *"Willard look in those closets, get it done, I feel like we can win this thing!"* rallied Mr. Kearns. Not only did the Willard School community accept the challenge to be the school that collected the most material, but they rose to meet it so impressively that their efforts amounted to **almost one ton** of material collected in a mere two days. It was a pleasure to see the students enjoy their well-deserved reward, professional school assembly programs focusing on litter abatement and recycling.

According to The Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association, *"Clothing and household textiles currently make up 6.3 % of the waste stream or the equivalent of 81 pounds per person thrown away annually in the United States."* For a community like Ridgewood, that's potentially over 1000 tons of textiles every year. This contest encouraged students to keep items that can be reused, like textiles, out of the landfill.



### WAY TO GO, WILLARD!

Do you have old clothing or textiles for disposal?  
Can you strive to work together as a household  
to keep these items out of the landfill?

### RECYCLING CLOTHING AND TEXTILES IS EASY.

- Bag manageable quantities.
- Place the bags in collection bins at shopping centers or at the Recycling Center.

#### At the Recycling Center we accept:

- Any used clothing item and household textile article such as pants, dresses, hats, shirts, drapes, curtains, blankets, towels, sheets, handbags, belts and paired shoes.
- Textiles that are ripped, torn, or missing accessories are accepted.

#### Not Acceptable:

- Material that is wet, mildewed, or contaminated by any liquids, chemicals, etc.