



## City of Davis Public Works Department

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For Immediate Release

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### GOT PLASTIC? A PLASTICS RECYCLING UPDATE

We all would like to do the right thing when it comes to recycling, and nothing seems to cause as much grief and confusion as plastic. Recycling paper is fairly straightforward, cardboard even more so. However, even for the suave, streetwise recycler, plastic recycling can be a regular Waterloo.

Ok, so what plastics are recyclable in Davis?

The rule of thumb to remember about plastics is **ONLY PUT PLASTIC #1 AND #2 HOUSEHOLD OR FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONTAINERS IN THE RECYCLING CART**. Water bottles, yogurt containers, margarine tubs, soda bottles, shampoo bottles, dish soap bottles, laundry detergent bottles, milk jugs...all these types of containers can be placed in the recycling cart, as long as they have a #1 or #2 symbol.

Some plastic grocery bags have a #2 recycling symbol on them, but they are not accepted in the recycling carts. Plastic grocery bags can be recycled at the store they came.

Other plastic containers such as flower pots, large water jugs, plastic buckets, toys and other non-household containers may have a #1 or #2 recycling symbol. These items are not accepted for recycling in the recycling carts. However, now they can be recycled at Davis Waste Removal.

Plastic recyclers have recently categorized a new group of plastics called *rigid plastics*. Davis Waste Removal has taken advantage of this new market, and is now accepting these rigid plastics for free drop-off at their recycling center 2727 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

A **RIGID PLASTIC** is any plastic that is stiff, as opposed to **FILM PLASTICS**, such as plastic bags, film and wrap.

The rigid plastics that are now accepted at DWR for recycling fall into three categories:

- 1) #3, #5, #6 and #7 household containers. This includes yogurt and sour cream containers, plastic disposable cups, and medicine bottles.
- 2) Other rigid plastics, such as plastic lawn furniture, ice chests, PVC pipe, garbage cans, laundry baskets, crates, toys and outdoor kids furniture (slides, sandboxes etc.)

- 3) NON-HOUSEHOLD CONTAINER plastics marked with a #1 and #2. These are generally thicker, stiffer plastics than the #1 and #2 plastic containers that are accepted in the recycling carts. These plastics can only be recycled in the rigid plastics bin at DWR. This includes plastic flower pots, large water jugs, plastic buckets and other non-household container plastics with a #1 or #2.

If a plastic product falls into one of the categories above, it can be brought to the DWR recycling center for free recycling.

Plastics #4 are not accepted in the rigid plastics bin at DWR because there are no local recyclers that will take the material for recycling. Other plastics not accepted include expanded polystyrene (better known by its brand name Styrofoam), hoses, and any film plastics such as plastic bags, film and wrap.

To check what kind of plastic a product is made from, take a look at the bottom or underside of the product. On the bottom of most plastic products you will see a recycling symbol—the chasing arrows—with a number inside or just underneath it. This number (#1-#7) is what tells you what kind of plastic the product is made from.

If you have questions about what material you can place in the new rigid plastic drop-off bin, feel free to call Davis Waste Removal at 756-4646. For more information about recycling and waste reduction in Davis, see [www.davisrecycling.org](http://www.davisrecycling.org) or email your questions to [pweb@cityofdavis.org](mailto:pweb@cityofdavis.org).