

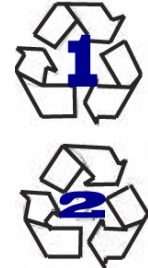
The SU Plastic Recycling Cheat Sheet

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As a Sustainable News You Can Use subscriber, you probably already faithfully recycle plastic bottles and jugs (without the cap, of course). In Onondaga County and at SU, items should be recycled if they are made from #1 or #2 plastic. How do you identify #1 or #2 plastic? Look for the number that is molded or embossed inside the chasing-arrow symbol typically located on the bottom of most recyclable containers, including milk jugs and water bottles, soft drink bottles, shampoo, and laundry detergent containers. Are you an expert now?



Take the recycling quiz

1. Should you recycle ALL plastics marked #1 or #2?
2. What do all the different numbers actually mean?

Were you a little hesitant to commit a “yes” to the first question? Still not quite sure what all the numbers mean? Take a look at what we found out along the way to increasing recycling on our campus.

To separate recyclable plastic from trash, follow these general guidelines:

1. Recycle all bottles labeled #1 and #2 with necks .



FACT

At SU and in Onondaga County, we can recycle many—but not all—#1 and #2 plastics.

2. Trash stackable containers, regardless of the plastic number, such as frozen dinner trays go in the trash, even though many are marked #1. This holds true also for yogurt tubs, disposable plastic cups, and clamshell takeout containers.



FACT

At SU, we recycle 32% of our total waste..

3. Recycle plastic grocery bags at your local grocery store. Although some are #2 plastic, they do not go in your regular recycling bin.

Onondaga County Not Your “Home” County? Visit these links for recycling in:
[Madison County](#) [Oswego County](#) [Cortland County](#)

FACT

According to the American Plastics Council, PETE (see Plastic Numbers Decoded) is commonly recycled into fiber for carpet and textiles. Recycled HDPE (see Plastic Numbers Decoded) is often made into bottles.

PLASTIC NUMBERS DECODED

1 (PETE) Polyethylene terephthalate

Example: soda bottle

2 (HDPE) High-density polyethylene

Example: milk jug

Plastics #1 and #2 are recycled at SU, in Onondaga County, and in many communities nationwide.

3 (V) Polyvinyl chloride, or PVC

Example: PVC plastic pipe

4 (LDPE) Low-density polyethylene

Example: bread bag

5 (PP) Polypropylene

Example: yogurt tub

6 (PS) Polystyrene

Example: foam packing peanuts

7 (Other)

Example: reusable water bottle

Fewer communities recycle plastics #3-7, SU and Onondaga County included.

The Society of the Plastics Industries, Inc. developed the codes in 1988 to label different types of plastic for recycling purposes.

Related links

To learn more about plastic recycling, visit these web sites:

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/materials/plastics.htm> <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8817.html>
<http://www.earth911.com/plastic/plastic-101/> http://www.ocrra.org/recycling_residents.asp

For more information on sustainability efforts and activities across campus and in our community, please visit our web site at <http://greenuniversecity.syr.edu/>. To be added to or removed from this list, send an e-mail to sustain@syr.edu with your request.