



# Living Green

## Recyclable Plastics (<http://www.msn.green.com>)

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Sometimes it seems like modern America is one colossal plastic palace. The versatile material is in our cars, toys, packaging, clothing, home goods, food utensils, medical devices and so much more. It is also littering our streets, clogging our waterways and choking marine life. Many plastics can be readily recycled, but how do consumers make sense of all the different types and rules?

### Number 1 Plastics

PET or PETE (polyethylene terephthalate)

**Found in:** Soft drink, water and beer bottles; mouthwash bottles; peanut butter containers; salad dressing and vegetable oil containers; oven able food trays.

**Recycling:** Picked up through most curbside recycling programs

**Recycled into:** Polar fleece,

fiber, tote bags, furniture, carpet, paneling, straps, (occasionally) new containers

PET plastic is the most common for single-use bottled beverages, because it is inexpensive, lightweight and easy to recycle. It poses low risk of leaching breakdown products. Recycling rates remain relatively low (around 20%), though the material is in high demand by remanufacturers. *Istock*

### Number 2 Plastics

HDPE (high density polyethylene)

**Found in:** Milk jugs, juice bottles; bleach, detergent and household cleaner bottles; shampoo bottles; some trash and shopping bags; motor oil bottles; butter and yogurt tubs; cereal box liners

**Recycling:** Picked up through most curbside recycling programs, although some allow only those containers with necks.

**Recycled into:** Laundry detergent bottles, oil bottles, pens, recycling containers, floor tile, drainage pipe, lumber, benches, doghouses, picnic tables, fencing

There are also plastics numbered from 3—7 which currently are not commonly recycled. However, most of these plastics can be reused in a different way. For instance, Number 4 plastics include plastic recycling bags. Many stores will allow you to return these bags for further use.

For more information on these plastics and the other numbers, visit

<http://green.msn.com/galleries/photos/photos.aspx?gid=203&page=1>



## Save Gas Money!

The average price of gasoline in the United States has topped \$4 a gallon, and won't peak until it hits \$4.15 in August, according to the latest government prediction. (The last prediction: Gas would peak at \$3.73 in June, so take it with a grain of salt.)

We've seen 11 straight weeks of record price increase.

Oil is threatening to rise to \$150 a barrel, according to Goldman Sachs. That's 50% higher than the milestone of \$100 a barrel that some analysts thought impossible just a few months ago.

Some areas of the country, like California, are already seeing gas prices rise toward \$4.50 a gallon.

That has some speculating we're in the midst of a bubble bred by greedy speculators. Everyone else is just trying to save a few pennies on gas.

Here are five road-tested ways to save money on gas. Of course the more gas we save, the less pollution we create, and the less beholden we are to

those who control the oil supply.

1.) Public Transportation: By one estimate, the public transportation system in the United States saves 3.4 billion gallons of oil a year (and cuts greenhouse gas emissions by 26 million tons).

2.) Carpool : You can cut your gas bills in half, right now. Share your trip to work with one other person and split the bill. That's like paying \$2 for gas, instead of \$4

3.) Walk or Bike: Every mile you pedal or stride saves you gas, saves you money and puts you in better shape. If you trade in a trip in the average car, you'd save about \$1 for every five miles you walk or pedal.

4.) Use a fuel efficient car: The most fuel-efficient 2008 model on the lot, the hybrid Toyota Prius, gets 48 mpg in the city and 45 on the highway . The least fuel-efficient 2008 SUV, the Mercedes-Benz G 55 AMG, gets just 11 and 13, respectively.

5.) Change Bad Habits: Chang-

ing bad driving habits, and scheduling regular vehicle maintenance, lessens the pollution you cause by burning fossil fuel. That means less smog, less asthma, less acid rain and less of a contribution to global warming. All in all, not a bad outcome from saving a few dimes.

Start by checking your tire pressure and inflating your tires to the appropriate level. Visit your mechanic for a tune-up if you're due. Be sure to have your tires aligned, your air filter checked and your oil changed if needed.

When making trips, combine errands so that the trip home from work also includes the trip to the grocery store (and thereby cuts your gas bill in half). When you're on the road, drive smoothly, accelerate slowly and don't speed. The biggest savings are in your right foot.

By following these simple ideas, you could save not only your money, but also lessen greenhouse emissions!



## TIPS FOR RECYCLING

- 1.) Print Double Sided!! Your computer printing defaults can be set to always print double sided. Check with IT to set up your computer and printer today!
- 2.) Use plastic bags in the garden to hold your grass cuttings and hedge trimmings before transfer to a compost bin.
- 3.) The black meat trays from the Supermarket make great paint trays for both adults and kids.

*Would you like to be a part of the GreenTeam or have a question?  
Please e-mail Bob Keenan at [bkeenan@steamboatsprings.net](mailto:bkeenan@steamboatsprings.net) for  
more information.*



Would you like to contribute to the GreenTeam Newsletter? Forward thoughts, ideas and articles to Sarah Vale @ [svale@steamboatsprings.net](mailto:svale@steamboatsprings.net)