



Living Green

Waste Management Accepts #1-7 Plastics!

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There has been a lot of talk about what plastics are accepted at our local recycling centers. It has been a struggle to pick out what plastics are recyclable vs. what aren't and then figuring out which of YOUR plastics they included! But...good news is here!

Waste Management will now accept all plastics numbered from one to seven. They will accept all of these plastics which include detergent bottles, yogurt containers and margarine containers.

Some rules still apply to these new plastics. All recyclables should still be rinsed out completely and all lids/caps should be removed. This helps keep the plastic bins completely recyclable and does not contaminate any of the containers. Also, plastic bags are still not acceptable.

Remember, curbside recycling pickup is free for Waste Management customers in the city limits. You can also drop off your recycling at the Waste Management Downhill Drive location or you can drop it at the Green Machine portable recycling container. The Green Machine is located behind Alpine Bank the first full week of each month, from Monday to Monday. Then it goes to Yampa, the Safeway parking lot, and Oak Creek for one week in each location.

In the bins, all acceptable recyclable material can be mixed including paper products, metal cans, glass, and plastic. All the materials are then shipped to Denver where they process all of the materials.

This acceptance of the full range of plastics is a great step towards increasing recycling in Steamboat. Yampa Valley

Recycles also is increasing other recycling programs, including that it now recycles all of the plastic cups that are used at the Free Summer Concert Series. They are also selling green, reusable shopping bags which can be purchased through the Chamber for as little as a dollar.

For more information on what plastics fall under each number visit http://www.thegreenguide.com/products/Kitchen/Plastic_Containers to learn more!



Bottles, Bottles, Everywhere! (www.green.msn.com)

It's ironic. In many parts of the world, there is no clean drinkable water. Here in the U.S., pure, drinkable water flows out of every tap, and yet Americans buy a staggering amount of bottled water. We pay big bucks for it, too - over \$15 billion a year.

Worst of all, the bottles are overflowing our landfills, and contribute to global warming.

More than a quarter of bottled water is just processed tap water, including Pepsi's Aquafina and Coca-Cola's Dasani. Despite this, bottled water consumption is growing at 10 percent a year, faster than any other beverage. We drink 15 times more bottled water today than we did in 1976.

This doesn't mean we're healthier, despite the ads. Federal regulations for municipal water are far more stringent. Bottled water rules allow higher levels of many contaminants, with more lenient requirements for filtration, testing and reporting

The Earth isn't healthier for it, either. According to the [Pacific](#)

Institute's fact sheet [PDF], manufacturing the 30+ billion plastic water bottles we bought in 2006:

- > Required the equivalent of more than 17 million barrels of oil - enough to fuel more than one million vehicles for a year. (Note: This was erroneously reported by the New York Times as 1.5 million, and the error is repeated in many places.)
- > Produced more than 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide.
- > Used three times the amount of water in the bottle.

Recycling would help, but we don't usually do it.. Less than 20% of the 28 billion single-serving water bottles that Americans buy each year are recycled. Some estimates are as low as 12 percent.

If you buy bottled water, recycle the bottle. But the better solution - for you and the environment - is to drink tap water, both at home and at restaurants:

- > Tap water is cleaner than most bottled water.
- > Tap water is delivered to

homes and offices for \$.002 a gallon.. Bottled water, which can cost as much per gallon as gasoline, is a thousand times more expensive.

- > The quality of municipal water in the U.S. is generally excellent. Don't let the recent reports about pharmaceuticals in tap water deter you.

National Geographic's "Green Guide" notes, "...the federal share of funding for water systems has declined from 78 percent in 1973 to 3 percent today." This places the financial burden almost entirely on local governments.

Food and Water watch also talks about how important it is to stop this trend and maintain the quality of municipal water. Their "Take Back the Tap" [\[PDF\]](#) report gives a detailed over-the-sur-tap-versus-bottled water.



What do you think? Can you give up bottled water?

TIPS FOR RECYCLING

- 1.) You can use your children's painting and drawings to wrap presents
- 2.) You can put old plastic bags in the bottom of plant pots. It is a good drainage systems.
- 3.) Select Reusable Products: Sturdy, washable utensils, tableware, cloth napkins, and dishcloths can be used many times.

*Would you like to be a part of the GreenTeam or have a question?
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Would you like to contribute to the GreenTeam Newsletter? Forward thoughts, ideas and articles to Sarah Vale @ svale@steamboatsprings.net