



Blue's News

Winter 2007

Plastic Recycling ...It's in the Bag!

Recycling Pop Quiz:

Q: What do you do with empty yogurt containers after breakfast?

A: Recycle them!

Q: What about margarine containers after scraping them clean?

A: Recycle them!

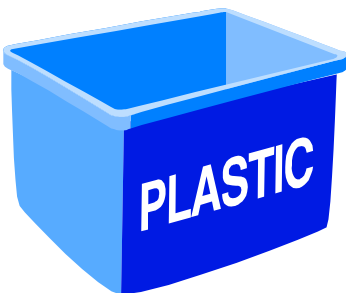
Q: Where do empty plastic "veggie" trays go when the party's over?

A: Recycling Bin!

Are you getting the big picture? **You can now recycle more household plastics!** You no longer have to single out those with "threaded necks" and the numbers 1, 2, or 3 stamped on the bottom.

The only exceptions are:

- **Plastic containers must be 2-gallons or smaller.** Larger plastic containers can be taken to local recycling centers.



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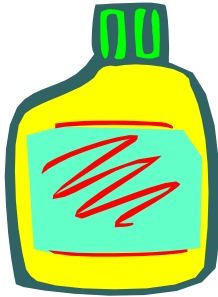
- **No plastic bags, shrink wrap, plastic wrap, or other filmy plastics.**

These items tend to blow off our trucks or get caught in the gears at recycling centers. Fortunately, your plastic bags can still avoid the landfill. Most grocery stores have "bag" collection bins, and those in good condition can be taken to any Boise City Park and loaded into the pet "clean-up" dispensers.

- **No motor oil or pesticide containers.** These containers have hazardous residues that can be harmful to you and your pets. Trash these items!

- **No Styrofoam.** You may find recycling arrows on these items, but they are *not* part of the plastic family and cannot be recycled in Boise.

We've expanded the list of acceptable plastics (#1 through #7), now it's up to you! Fill your bin and get it



to the curb each week.

Remember to rinse and flatten your plastic bottles and tubs *before* throwing them in the bin.

Most can be easily squished which will save space in your bin *and* on our truck.

If you squish your plastics like a champ but you still can't squeeze your recyclables into one blue bin, no problem! Use additional recycling containers such as milk crates, plastic storage bins, small kitchen trash cans or cardboard boxes to hold your "overflow" recyclables. Label additional containers with "RECYCLING" and "SAVE" and set them next to your blue bin.

If you are not currently recycling but want to give it a whirl...now is the time! Recycling is a great New Year's resolution and we're here to ensure your success! Call Allied Waste at 345-1265 or Boise Public Works at 384-3901 to request a bin. We will arrange to have one

delivered to your house. Each bin comes with a sticker which shows the types of materials that can be recycled in Boise.

If you already have a bin but would like an updated sticker, shoot us an e-mail at: info@bfidaho.com, and we will mail (or e-mail) one to you.

Curbside recycling is a great way to reduce the amount of trash you send to the landfill. Make a difference—Recycle!

Questions? Call 685-7739 or e-mail: rachele.klein@awin.com

ALLIED WASTE/ BFI

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Say Good-Bye to Mercury!



To reduce the potential for mercury contamination in your home, Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Boise City and Ada County are once again sponsoring a Mercury Fever Thermometer Exchange Program. Kick-off will be early February 2007.

Mercury is extremely toxic to everyone, particularly children under the age of six, affecting the central nervous system, kidneys and liver. It's also harmful to the environment. Idaho has nine bodies of water with health advisories associated with eating fish due to high mercury levels.

Boise City, Ada County and St. Alphonsus are offering a free digital thermometer (limit one per household) in exchange for your old mercury thermometer to reduce the potential for mercury contamination in your home and in the environment.

Residents can exchange their old mercury fever thermometer for a **free digital thermometer** at any Boise, Eagle, or Meridian Household Hazardous Waste collection site, or at Ada County's permanent collection facility (on Fridays and Saturdays) located at Hidden Hollow landfill.

Go to www.cityofboise.org/public_works/services/solid_waste and click on household hazardous waste for a complete collection site schedule. More mercury questions? Contact Angela Deckers with Boise Public Works at 384-3901 or send an e-mail to: adeckers@cityofboise.org

Common Recycling Questions



What day will my recycling be collected?

Recyclable materials are collected the same day as your trash. Set your blue bin out at the curb by 7:00 a.m. in a place where it will be visible to the driver (preferably 3-feet or more from your trash cans.)

What if my bin is stolen or broken?

Call Allied Waste and request another bin. Allied Waste will replace your bin up to once a year if it is missing or damaged.

Do I have to use paper bags?

We prefer that you use paper bags. Paper bags are recyclable and driver-friendly. When your bags are worn out, your driver can throw them onto the truck. All grocery stores still stock paper bags, you just have to request them. For those of you with reusable canvas bags, most grocery stores will allow you to take 2-3 paper bags once in awhile at no charge.

What do I do if it is windy or rainy?

If it's windy, cover your bin with a piece of cardboard and weigh it down with a rock. If it's rainy, you can still recycle. Allied Waste picks-up soggy materials!

What do I do with my motor oil?

Place your motor oil in a transparent one-gallon jug labeled "USED MOTOR OIL" and set it NEXT TO YOUR BLUE BIN. Write "SAVE" on your jug if you would like to re-use the container. Motor oil will not be accepted if it is mixed with other fluids such as gasoline or antifreeze.

What do I do if my recycling is not picked-up?

If your recycling was not picked-up by the end of the day, you may have been missed and should call Allied Waste. Your setout will be collected the next service day. If only some of your material was taken, chances are something in your bin was not acceptable. Look for an "Oops" card indicating the problem.

recycling

Where?

BSU!

We've added a glass recycling drop-site to the BSU campus! It is in the former University Inn parking lot near Capitol Blvd. and University Street.

You now have **16** glass recycling options in Boise!

To find the site nearest you, call Boise Public Works at 384-3901 or check the City's website:

cityofboise.org/public_works
(tip: type "glass recycling" in the search box)