Recycle clean, dry plastic bags and film packaging

Newspaper Bags

Case Wrap
(e.g. snacks, beverage cases)

Produce Bags

Retail Bags

Food Storage Bags

Air Pillows

Recycle if Clean & Dry

Store Drop-off

PLASTIC

BAGS / FILM / WRAP

how2recycle.info

Napkin, Paper Towel, Bathroom Tissue and Diaper Wrap
(packaging)

Bread Bags

Dry Cleaning Bags

- ☑ ONLY frozen food bags with the above how2recycle label
- ☒ NO prewashed salad mix bags
- ☒ NO degradable bags

Recycled plastic bags and wraps can become new packaging or durable home building products.

plasticfilmrecycling.org

Recycling plastic bags and film

First REDUCE your use of plastic bags and film, then REUSE and then RECYCLE!

Most *clean and dry* plastic film and bags are 100% recyclable at participating Wisconsin store drop-off locations. Find a participating location in your area at **plasticfilmrecycling.org.**

Generally, these materials are *not* collected with your curbside recycling because they can get caught in the machines that sort your recyclable containers.

Keep more plastics out of landfills. Take clean, empty bags and film to a retailer that offers a plastic film and bag collection bin to customers.

Plastic film includes any thin plastic used in things like bags, shrink wraps or paper towel and dry cleaning overwraps. Although you may not notice, most likely you come into contact with it every day. Most plastic film is recyclable and has great value to manufacturers as a raw material. Products made from bags and films include new bags, composite lumber and playground equipment.

Remember: plastic containers like water bottles and yogurt containers need to go in your recycling bin and should not be included with your plastic film and bags.

If in doubt, throw it out! Plastic film must be clean and dry and the right type in order for it to be recycled. Materials that can harm the recycling process include: tape, labels, paper receipts, food residue and crumbs, salt, and crinkly or rigid plastics (bottles and tubs). These contaminants can ruin the quality of the plastic and may result in it not being recycled.

Remember: Reduce, Reuse, then Recycle!

Why do plastic bags and film need to be clean and dry? Most plastic bags and film do not go through a wash process before turning into a new product and therefore must be received clean. Moisture can be a problem when bags are bunched up or balled tightly together. Mold can form, thus contaminating and ruining the batch.

Can I recycle plastic bags and film if they...

YES!

...are colored plastic? **YES,** the color does not affect the recycling process.

...stretch when I pull them apart with both hands? **YES**, this is the correct type of plastic to recycle. If you cannot stretch them apart with your hands, throw it in the garbage.

...have a paper label or tape stuck on? **YES** but labels, tape and adhesive strips MUST be removed prior to recycling.

NO!

...are thicker plastic like a dog/cat food bag or a frozen vegetable bag? **NO**, this type of plastic will degrade the quality of the plastic film collected.

...were used for water softener salt? **NO**, this plastic bag will have traces of salt on it and should be thrown away. The salt will degrade the recycling process.

...make a loud crinkle sound (like a chip bag or candy wrappers) when I mash it in my hand? **NO**, this plastic film is not recyclable.

WRAP RECYCLING W.R.A.P. plasticfilmrecycling.org ACTION PROGRAM

WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Waste & Materials Management
PO Box 7921 | Madison, WI 53707 | (608) 266-2111
DNRWasteMaterials@wisconsin.gov

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