

## ***What can be recycled?***

All recyclables should be rinsed and free of food. Recyclables go into **blue bags**.

Recyclables include:

- ✓ Glass bottles and jars with lids
- ✓ Rigid plastic bottles, plastic containers, tubs and lids, clamshell packaging, flower pots, etc. with a recycle symbol and #1, 2, 4, 5 or 6.
- ✓ Plastic cups with a recycle symbol (but NOT the green stripe compostable cups)
- ✓ Aluminum and steel cans
- ✓ Aerosol cans
- ✓ Aluminum foil and foil pans – rinsed and all food removed
- ✓ Paperboard coated with a moisture or grease barrier coating that is NOT wax or compostable plastic
- ✓ Milk and juice cartons
- ✓ Brown paper bags

***These items cannot be recycled!***

- × Styrofoam, including paper cups with Styrofoam wrapping
- × Plastic utensils and straws made from petroleum (In theory they are recyclable but they are not accepted by DC recycling system.)
- × Plastic wrap (Saran Wrap, Glad Wrap, etc.)
- × Compostable corn-based or sugar cane-based utensils,
- × Compostable cups (with green stripe)
- × Mixed media: paper or cardboard with a foil layer or coated with wax, paper coated with plastic

**Please note:**

- Do not put liquids or loose plastic bags in the recycle bins.
- Plastic bags (NOT plastic wrap) free of food should be *collected separately in a plastic bag* and taken to a retail grocery store.

## ***What can be composted?***

Compostable items go into compostable (light) green bags and include:

- ✓ All food waste – vegetables, fruits, grains, coffee grounds, meat, bones, fish, egg shells, etc.
- ✓ Used paper towels and napkins (but not those used with a chemical cleanser)
- ✓ Compostable “green stripe” paper or clear cups
- ✓ Uncoated plates made from paper or plant fiber (NO wax or plastic)
- ✓ Utensils made from corn, sugar cane or bamboo (NO petroleum-based plastics)
- ✓ Wooden stirrers

***Never put these items in the compost bins!***

- × Liquids of any sort (Liquids should be poured into a sink or the garden.)
- × Ice cream
- × Popsicles
- × Yogurt
- × Plastic bottles, containers, wrap (i.e., made from petroleum.)
- × Paper cups coated with plastic, wax or Styrofoam

Helpful hints: Use a paper towel or plate to press the contents down and squeeze air out of the compost bin. Always replace the lid and pull up the handles to seal. Do not overfill the bin to the point that the lid cannot be closed.

- Compost bins are exchanged on Tuesday mornings.
- **NOTE: Extra bins for large events must be requested 2 weeks in advance.**

***What to do if the compost bin is full?***

**Place small amounts of compostables in a bowl, cover with plastic wrap and place in the walk-in refrigerator. Empty when a new bin is available.**