

A Summary of Westchester County's Source Separation Law:

Recycling Rules for Residential & Commercial Multi-Tenant Buildings

The Westchester County **Source Separation Law** (SSL) was enacted in 1992 to encourage recycling, protect the environment, and manage the solid waste stream in Westchester County. This summary includes the most recent amendments made to the SSL, as of June 1, 2011.

The law's pertinent provisions for **owners or managers of multi-tenant buildings (both residential and commercial)** are:

1. All waste generators are required to separate recyclable materials from their garbage.

Mandated recyclables are:

- Newsprint
- Cardboard: all corrugated (e.g., packing boxes) and non-corrugated (e.g., cereal boxes)
- High-grade paper (e.g., typing and copier paper)
- Glass food and beverage containers
- Metal food and beverage containers
- Bulk metals (e.g., appliances)
- Plastics: coded 1 -7*
- Yard waste: fall leaves only
- Vehicular batteries
- Used motor oil

* As of June 1, 2011 plastics coded 3-7 were added to the county's list of mandated recyclables. See reverse side for more information on plastics.

2. Owners or managers of residential and commercial multi-tenant buildings are also required to:

- a) supply an appropriate number of containers to store recyclables separately from garbage
- b) provide an educational recycling plan for tenants
 - this includes properly labeling recycling containers and providing instructions on what waste should be deposited in each container
- c) ensure the separate collection of recyclables by either a municipal or private hauler

The County's Department of Environmental Facilities, as well as many local municipalities, enforces the provisions of the SSL, including the rules listed above. Violations of the SSL may result in penalties ranging from a Warning Letter to a fine of up to \$1,000. Each day of a continuing violation will constitute a separate violation and may be subject to a separate fine and/or civil penalty.

For more information on the Source Separation Law, visit www.westchestergov.com/recycle or call the Recycling Helpline at 813-5425.

Quick Reference Guide to Westchester County's

Expanded Source Separation Law for Plastics:



As of June 1, 2011, plastics 3 through 7 are included in Westchester County's list of mandated recyclables.

Recyclable plastics include food, beverage, detergent and shampoo containers and caps, which should be rinsed clean before going in the recycling bin. **With the expansion of the County's Source Separation Law**, all Westchester residents, businesses, schools and institutions are required to separate for recycling all empty plastic containers marked with the triangular chasing arrows symbol and coded with a number 1 through 7 in the center, with the exception of items listed below.

Don't include the following plastic items:

- Plastic bags, all plastic film (e.g., dry cleaning bags and packaging materials), vinyl
- Unmarked or non-coded plastics (e.g., toys, clothing hangers, tableware and utensils)
- Large rigid plastics (e.g., toys and furniture)
- Plastic foam (e.g., hot beverage cups, trays and packaging materials)
- Containers that may have held hazardous materials (e.g., motor oil, solvents and pesticides)
- Building materials (e.g., pvc piping and bathroom and kitchen fixtures)

About Plastic Bags: Plastic grocery and carryout bags, as well as other plastic bags (e.g., dry cleaning bags) may be dropped off at any of several large grocery and retail stores for recycling. Each year, Americans throw away more than 100 billion plastic bags. Less than 1% is recycled. Recycling these bags reduces waste, litter, and our demand for foreign oil. Recycled plastic bags provide valuable material to manufacturers of plastic lumber, plastic bags and other useful products. For more information on plastic bag recycling and drop off locations, visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/50034.html>.

For additional information, visit www.westchestergov.com/recycle or call the Recycling HelpLine at (914) 813-5425.