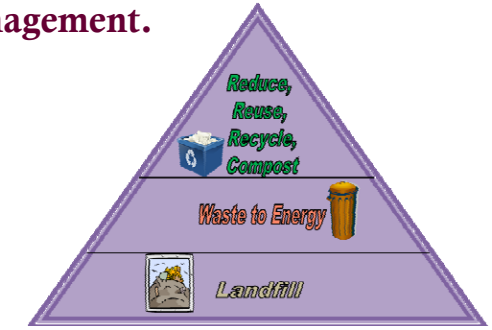
Please Don't Recycle these items

- Food
- Styrofoam or any kind of foam
- Plastic utensils
- Hypodermic needles or sharps
- Plastic wrap/shrink wrap
- Dirty paper plates
- Food bags/bread bags
- Potato chip bags
- Diapers
- Toys or clothes
- Cat litter
- Paper towels or tissues
- Garbage bags or trash in general

ecomaine wants you to know that we continue to search for new technology and new buyers for materials such as Styrofoam and plastic film, so that one day we might add these items to our program. ecomaine is a proud supporter of the State of Maine Hierarchy of Waste Management.



ecomaine

To learn more about recycling you can go to:
www.ecomaine.org

Understanding Plastic Recycling

ecomaine

Single Sort Recycling

Recycling Made Simple!

You simply separate your recyclables from your trash and put all your recyclables together in one bin.

RECYCLE AND DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

ecomaine Recycles:

- Newspaper,
- Cardboard,
- Junk mail,
- Paperboard,
- Aluminum,
- Glass,
- Cans and
- Rigid plastic containers #1-#7

Tips

- You can leave labels on.
- You should make containers clean enough to discourage smells and insects but it doesn't have to be spotless.

It really is simple, but if you still have questions go to www.ecomaine.org/recycling

The Chasing Arrows:

The chasing arrow symbol is located on the bottom of most plastic containers. Many people are surprised to learn that this symbol does not indicate recyclability. This symbol was designed to tell manufacturers what family of resin plastic belongs to.

There are thousands of different plastics but only seven categories or resin families. A plastic is assigned to a family based on shared qualities, not chemical composition. Only the local recycler can tell you what they are able to recycle based on local markets for materials. Anything is recyclable if the recycling facility can find a manufacturer who will buy that material for use in production of a new product. Many products have the triangle but are not recyclable in this area– just look at Styrofoam for example.

The Three Tests:

At ecomaine we want you to recycle #1-#7 rigid plastic containers. To help you determine if something can be recycled here at ecomaine, we suggest applying these three tests:

Test #1– Is it marked with the chasing arrow triangle with a number from 1-7?

Test #2- Is it rigid or does it have a hard form?

Test #3– Is it a container?

If a plastic item passes all three tests,
you can recycle it at ecomaine!
But wait...there are exceptions to every rule.

Exceptions to The Rule:

1. No form of foam (Styrofoam) is recyclable at ecomaine, so even if it passes all three tests it is still not recyclable because we can't find a factory who will buy it.
2. Plastic shopping sacks are recycled at ecomaine. Although it fails Test #2, we will recycle a shopping sack.

Many people look at a shopping sack and reason, "this is just like my bread bag or the bag my dry cleaning comes back in", and therefore they try to recycle them. They are not the same. These types of plastics are called "film" and our factory buyers only want film used to make shopping sacks (the bag the store puts your purchases in marked #2 or #4). We can't recycle any other type of non-rigid plastic or "film" at this time. Sorry!