



“A partnership building GOOD PEOPLE who DO GOOD things.”

WASTE MANAGEMENT’S BASIC RULES FOR WHAT GOES IN THE RECYCLING BIN

Plastic was first introduced in the 1950’s as a convenient, cheap, lightweight product that could be thrown away after one use. At the time, no one realized the material **can be toxic AND NEVER REALLY BIODEGRADES**. In fact, plastic remains in our environment **for hundreds of years**, and only a **VERY SMALL** amount of all the plastic **EVER MADE** has been recycled...all the rest has been incinerated (contributing to climate change), is still on the planet polluting or gets thrown into the trash because it has become “undesirable” in the recycling market due to *waste contamination*. Because it doesn’t biodegrade, the waste created by plastic is mounting and getting pushed around the world kind of like the game **HOT POTATO**. No one wants the hot potato in their hand for too long so they send it off to the next guy as quick as they can. This hot potato pass off is done **through waste systems**, eventually ending up in less fortunate countries without waste systems, for the people who live in these places to have to endure the pollution and trash the world is accumulating.

It’s important to realize, when we put our plastic waste into the bin on the sidewalk and wave goodbye to the trashman who collects it, the waste isn’t always recycled and certainly doesn’t just go away. Instead it enters a complex waste system that **REQUIRES CONSUMER PARTICIPATION** to insure that what **CAN BE recycled IS**. Otherwise, it will be shipped somewhere else to do its nasty business of polluting, and this makes other people’s beaches & communities **REALLY MESSY**.

6 RULES FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT & WHAT GOES IN THE BIN:

- **REFUSE** the top 5 sources of single use plastic: plastic bags, water bottles, to-go containers, straws and to-go cups & lids.
- **REDUCE** what we buy & **REUSE** ALL existing plastic now in circulation.
- **LEARN** more about our waste management systems, so we **recycle** and **PROPERLY** sort our waste.
- **RECYCLE ALL**: Plastic bottles, cans, paper and cardboard
- **KEEP FOOD & LIQUIDS OUT** of your recycling bin. This contaminates ALL the other items, which then become WASTE.
- **KEEP PLASTIC BAGS OUT** of your recycling bin. (and electronics, soiled paper, needles, dangerous items, bulky plastic toys and construction debris!)

By participating and **CARING** about people and planet in these ways, we can **WORK TOGETHER** to **REGENERATE** a healthy ocean and planet, free of plastic pollution.