Puzzled by Plastics?

People are sometimes puzzled about which plastics can be recycled and which should go in the trash. And for good reason! Plastics are a group of very chemically diverse materials. Fortunately a national coding system requires most consumer plastics to be labeled with a resin code 1 through 7. This helps consumers identiy the types of plastics used in making bottles and other containers.

The resin coding system consists of a recycling triangle with a number 1 through 7 in the center. Numbers 1 through 6 each represent a different type of plastic resin. Number 7 includes all other plastics. The letters sometimes found under the triangle abbreviate the name of the plastic.

Generally, this coding symbol is imprinted on the bottom of a plastic container. While the code provides guidance, it should be viewed with caution because of the misleading use of the recycling triangle. The presence of the recycling triangle does not necessarily mean that the item is accepted in your local program or that it can be recycled. For example, plastic deli produce containers often bear the #1 label. However, these containers include additives that will ruin a batch of #1 plastics used to make new beverage containers. When in doubt, it is better to throw the container out.

#1 PETE - polyethylene terephthalate
Common forms: bottles for soft drinks, water, juice, sports drinks, mouthwash, ketchup and salad dressing' food jars for peanut butter, jelly, jam and pickles
Recycled into: fiber for carpet, fleece jackets, comforter fill and tote bags.
Good recycling market

#2 HPDE - high density polyethylene
Common forms: bottles for milk, water juice, cosmetics, shampoo, dish and laundry detergents and household cleaners
Recycled into: plastic lumber for outdoor decking, fencing and picnic tables; piping; floor tiles; buckets; bottles for non-food items, such as shampoo, conditioner, liquid laundry detergent, household cleaners, motor oil and antifreeze
Good recycling market

#3 PVC - polyvinyl chloride
Common forms: rigid packaging like blister packs and clamshells, bags for bedding and medical supplies, shrink wrap, deli and meat wrp and tamper-resistant packaging
Recycled into: pipe, decking, fencing, paneling, gutters, carpet backing, floor tiles and mats, resilient flooring and mud flaps, cassette trays, traffic cones, garden hose
Limited recycling market, a serious contaminant in current recycling systems

#4 LPDE - low density polyethylene
Common forms: bags for dry cleaning, newspapers, bread, frozen foods, fresh produce and household garbage; shrink wrap and flexible film; container lids; squeezable bottles like hone and mustard; toys
Recycled into: shipping envelopes, garbage can liners, floor tile, paneling, furniture film and sheeting, compost bins, trash cans, landscape timber and outdoor lumber
Limited but growing recycling market

#5 PP - polypropylene
Common forms: containers for yogurt, margarine, butter, dairy products, takeout meals and deli foods; medicine bottles, bottle caps and closures
Recycled into: automobile applications, garden rakes, storage bins, shipping pallets, sheeting and trays
Limited but growing recycling market

#6 PS - polystyrene foam - Styrofoam ™
Common forms: food service items such as cups, plates, bowls, cutlery, hinged takeout containers (clamshells) and meat and poultry trays; packing peanuts; compact disc cases; aspirin bottles; protective foam packaging for furniture, electronics and other delicate items
Recycled into: thermal insulation, thermometers, light switch plates, vents, desk trays, rulers, license plate frames and egg cartons
Limited recycling merket

#7 Other
This category includes products which contain all other plastics,

The materials described in this brouchure may not provide all the possible fees for the proper recycling or disposal of waste materials. Please consult with attendants for further informaiton.

Freon contained appliances

Air conditioners	$50.00
Any other freon appliances	$50.00

Electronics

Tvs, computers	$50.00

Propane Cylinders (valve must be off)

20# cylinders and under	No charge
Over 20# cylindars	No charge

Tires (prices subject to change)-rims must be removed

Under 13"	$15.00
13" - 16"	$15.00
17" - 18"	$15.00
19" +	$20.00
Tractor	$40.00
Earth Moving, Large Equip	$50.00

Batteries (vehicle)	No Charge
Scrap Metal/white goods	No Charge
Waste oil, oil filters, antifreeze	No charge
Clean Cardboard, Paper, Plastic Glass, Tin	No Charge

Waste Materials

Large waste items i.e. sofas, mattresses, etc	$20.00

Fluorescent Bulbs/CFL's

(Package carefully to prevent breakage)

Tubular Bulbs	$1.50
Compacts (CFL's)	$1.50
Shatterproof/Shielded Lamps (plastic coated)	$3.00
UV/Ultravoilet Bulbs	$6.00
High Intensity Discharge (mercury vapor, metal halide, high pressure sodium)	$2.50
Ballast	$6.00/each

Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFL's) can be recycled for free at locations found on the Focus on Energy website: www.focusonenergy.com

Recycle plastic bags, film & wrap at participating locations such as grocery, retail & hardware stores. The City of Gillett Recycling Center **does not** accept plastic bags, film or wrap. Loose plastic bags, film & wrap clogs up processing machinery causing unnecessary expenses at recycling facilities and at local landfill sites.