



# Plastic Bags and Plastic Wraps No Longer Accepted in Recycling Stream at Transfer Station

---

Plastic bags and plastic wraps will no longer be accepted in the recycling streams dropped-off at the **Fort Totten Transfer Station** and **Benning Road Transfer Station**. On a daily basis, these items clog machinery used for screening and processing of products received at a recycling center. Their presence creates operational problems and shutdowns, posing safety hazards for sort-line employees and anyone performing maintenance on equipment choked with plastic bags and wraps. Furthermore, the final condition of such bags and wraps, once recovered, often renders them unmarketable, leading to their disposal.

## Types of Plastic Bags and Wraps NO longer Accepted in Recycling:

- Retail/Grocery Plastic Shopping Bags
- Bread/Bakery Bags
- Dry-Cleaning Bags
- Newspaper Bags
- Produce Bags
- Zip Close Food Storage Bags
- Crinkle Bags (e.g. snacks, pasta)
- Plastic Case Wrap and Film
- Air Pillows and Bubble Wrap

## Are Clear Recycling Plastic Liners Acceptable?

For commercial properties, which include multifamily dwellings with four or more units and non-residential commercial entities, a clear, plastic *liner* is generally accepted to collect recyclables in receptacles. These plastic liners are also NOT recyclable themselves and are currently accepted for the convenience of commercial operations. DPW-collected curbside residential recyclables should involve no bags or liners at all.

## Where Can I Recycle Plastic Shopping Bags?

Most supermarkets and large retailers have plastic shopping bag return/recycling bins in their stores. Please visit <http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/s01/s01dropoff.html> to find a store near you that recycles plastic bags.

## Can I put my compostable or biodegradable bag in a single stream recycling bin (collecting bottles, cans, cardboard and paper)?

No. These bags also pose the same operational and safety problems and thus do not get recycled.

## Can large paper bags be used as a collection liner for my recycling bin?

Yes and paper bags will get recycled.

## Can I still put my trash in plastic bags?

Yes. Plastic bags and plastic wraps are only prohibited for recyclables.

## Where Can I Get More Information on Reducing and Recycling My Waste?

You can find more information on recycling by reaching [www.dpw.dc.gov/plasticbagremoval](http://www.dpw.dc.gov/plasticbagremoval)

