

Recycle **clean, dry** plastic bags and film packaging

Include these materials



...and other film packages beyond displayed items IF they have the how2recycle label

DO NOT include with bags and film

- NO Prewashed Salad Mix Bags
- NO Paper
- NO Rigid Plastic:
 - Plastic Food Containers
 - Plastic Bottles
 - Hangers
- NO Degradable Bags
- NO Silica Packets
- NO Rigid Foam or Peanuts
- NO Candy Bags



Plastic Film Recycling

Lowe's

15 ARISTA Dr BREWER, ME

12.55 miles

JCPenney

Stillwater Ave Bangor, ME(207) 947-0792

13.2 miles

Lowe's

70 SPRINGER Dr BANGOR, ME

13.49 miles

Wal-Mart Supercenter

900 Stillwater Ave BANGOR, ME(207) 947-5254

13.6 miles

Target

60 Longview Dr Bangor, ME(207)945-3133

13.73 miles

Hannaford Supermarkets

773 Stillwater Ave Bangor, ME(207) 947-6735

14.17 miles

Hannaford Supermarkets

383 Wilson St Brewer, ME(207) 989-2500

14.38 miles

Wal-Mart Supercenter

24 Walton Dr BREWER, ME(207) 989-5068

14.88 miles

Hannaford Supermarkets

500 Stillwater Ave Old Town, ME(207) 827-2700

15.06 miles

Hannaford Supermarkets

123 Main St Bangor, ME(000) 000-0000

15.72 miles

Shaw's

353 Main St Bangor, ME(207) 942-9441

15.95 miles

Hannaford Supermarkets

653 BRdway Bangor, ME(207) 947-8338

16.31 miles

Hannaford Supermarkets

39 Florida Ave Bangor, ME(207) 942-8231

18.35 miles

Hannaford Supermarkets

1133 Union St Airport Mal Bangor, ME(207) 942-0100

18.79 miles

Hannaford Supermarkets

77 Western Ave Hampden, ME(207) 862-5444

22.6 miles

Plastic Bag and Plastic Film Recycling

Municipal recycling programs in Maine typically accept several types of plastic. Plastic containers used for products including milk, laundry detergent, shampoo, and dish soap are commonly accepted in curbside bins and at transfer stations. Municipal recycling programs usually do not accept thin, flexible plastics such as plastic bags and plastic film as the material can clog up the gears of machinery used to sort recyclable items. However, plastic bags and film are recyclable, and drop-off recycling bins are located throughout the state.

Where can I recycle plastic bags and film?

Many stores in Maine provide convenient locations to drop off your plastics recycling. When looking for the plastics recycling bin at your local store, check near the entrance. By law, retailers in Maine that use plastic bags to bag products must provide a receptacle to recycle plastic bags, either within the store or within 20 feet of the main entrance of the store. To find the nearest drop-off location for you, enter your zip code into the search box on Plastic Film Recycling's website.

What types of plastic film can I recycle?

Plastic bag recycling bins are not just for plastic shopping bags. Many types of thin, flexible plastic are accepted. An easy way to tell if a plastic film can go in the bin is to see if it is labeled with a #2 or #4. **The important point to remember is that in order to be considered recyclable, all items must be EMPTY, CLEAN and DRY.**

All the following items are OK to recycle in the plastic bag recycling bins located at retail stores:

- Plastic grocery and retail bags
- Bread bags
- Mattress bags
- Furniture Wrap
- Case over-wrap (found on diapers, toilet paper, etc.)
- Dry Cleaning bags
- Newspaper Sleeves
- Ice bags
- Pellet bags
- Zip lock and other reclosable bags
- Produce bags
- Bubble Wrap
- Salt bags
- Cereal bags
- Stretch film/pallet wrap

Some plastics require a bit of preparation before being placed in the recycling bin. For example, when recycling wood pellet bags, the top of the bag should be cut off completely, and the bag should be turned inside out and shaken thoroughly to ensure that the bag is empty. Plastic bags used to hold bread or other food items may also need to be shaken out to remove any crumbs. Please note that any film or bags labeled as compostable, pre-washed salad mix bags, and frozen food bags are NOT acceptable.

What are plastic films^[1]?

Film plastics are usually defined as any plastics that are less than 10mm in thickness. All of the plastic films listed above are low density polyethylene (LDPE) or high density polyethylene (HDPE). Some common examples of plastic films #2 and #4 are provided below.



LDPE#4 - Low Density Polyethylene: Unpigmented films have high clarity, moderate stretch & strength characteristics.

- Bags (e.g., thicker newspaper bags, bread bags, pellet bags)
- Bubble wrap



LLDPE#4 - Linear Low Density Polyethylene: Unpigmented films have moderate clarity, slightly tacky feel to the touch.

- Stretch wrap
- Bags (e.g. clear, thin newspaper bags)
- Dry cleaning film
- Agricultural films (silage bags, greenhouse films, wraps for hay bales)



MDPE#4 - Medium Density Polyethylene: Unpigmented films have moderate clarity, poor stretch and strength characteristics.

- Consumer paper packaging (i.e. toilet paper, paper towel)
- Note: MDPE is a variation on the production of LDPE and is often labeled #4. It's generally used as an alternative to other resins in film applications where strength is not required.



HDPE#2 - High Density Polyethylene: Unpigmented films have some opacity, crinkle to the touch, low stretch, and can tear easily, high strength.

- Most grocery bags
- T-shirt bags
- Bags with sealed air for packaging (e.g., air cushion)



Frequently Asked Questions about Plastic Film Recycling

What is "plastic film"?

Plastic film is thin polyethylene plastic used for wraps, packaging or commercial/retail use bags. It's sometimes called stretch film. Polyethylene (PE) film may carry a #2 HDPE or #4 LDPE mark.

What types of plastic film and bags should I recycle?

Most clean and dry plastic films and bags are 100% recyclable at participating retail and local drop off locations. Some of the most common examples are shown. Also, any bag or wrap with the How2Recycle label shown can be put in the bin. Generally, if plastic film stretches when you pull it with your fingers, it's okay to recycle it.

Where can I recycle plastic film and bags?

In most communities around the United States, plastic film, wraps and bags should be taken to participating retail locations or local drop off sites. Please see below for more information about why bags shouldn't go in curbside bins.

Why can't I put my bags in my curbside bin/cart?

While a few local programs accept bags and wraps in their curbside collection programs, most do not. That's because the bags and wraps have to be clean and dry to be recycled, and collecting them in curbside bins with bottles and containers generally leaves them too dirty and wet to be recycled. Additionally, bags and films can jam sorting machinery, creating problems for the businesses that sort recyclables.

Why can't frozen food or pre-washed salad bags go into the bin with my carryout bags?

Many of these bags may contain a barrier polymer or other additives that is not the polyethylene (#'s 2 and 4) plastic that recyclers want. These polymer barriers help protect the food and extend shelf life but recyclers consider them to be a contaminant in the recycling bin.

Can I recycle it if...

The plastic is colored?

YES. Colored material is not a problem for recycling.

It tears like paper?

NO. This type of plastic is currently not accepted in bag recycling bins.

It crinkles loudly (like candy wrappers or chip bags) when I mash it in my hand?

NO. Please do not include, as it is not currently acceptable for recycling.

It has labels or tape?

YES, but labels, tape, and adhesive strips SHOULD BE REMOVED prior to putting it in the recycling bin. The integrity of the bag isn't important—the recycler just wants the clean plastic.

It is thicker, stiff plastic like pet food bags or bedding bags (including anything with a zipper)?

NO. These are not the same type of plastic as what recyclers want, so DO NOT include.

If it says it's degradable AND recyclable?

Currently, these bags cannot be placed in drop-off bins. The recyclers reprocessing bags don't want the products they are making to degrade over time so these bags are not acceptable.

It is dirty, has crumbs, or is wet?

NO. Recyclers need the bags and film to be CLEAN and DRY. Please don't include dirty or wet bags, or any material that has food or other residues. **If in doubt, throw it out!**

What happens to my bags and wraps after they're recycled?

Plastic bags are recycled into many different products. Most bags and film are turned into composite lumber, but they can be reprocessed into small pellets or post-consumer resin, which can be used to make a variety of new products, such as new bags, pallets, containers, crates, and pipe. [Watch this video](#) to learn more about how your bags and wraps can become new composite lumber.



Recycle your Clean, Dry, Empty Plastic Bags and Film Packaging!

Plastics to Collect:

- LDPE / HDPE Films
- Newspaper Sleeves
- Bread Bags
- Product Wrap
- Cereal Liners
- Food Storage Bags
- Ice Bags
- Pellet Bags
- Produce Bags
- Dry Cleaning Bags
- Grocery Bags
- Case Overwrap
- Packaging Air Pillows
- Salt Bags



Look for bins and signage near store entrances and drop off collected plastics and wraps.

Your plastic bags and wraps then become Earth-friendly composite decking & railing!

Go to trexrecycling.com to see participating retailers.
800-BUY-TREX

