

Rigid Plastic Recycling is Here!

What belongs in your weekly curbside trash can? These days not much....because so much is collected in your weekly blue bin. And, now, your regular trash can should have even more room in it because our Town now gives residents the opportunity to recycle both Styrofoam and large rigid plastic items at its semi-annual Community Collection Day (CCD, as we call it.) The next CCD is Saturday Nov 15th. Mark your calendars!

Rigid plastic? Huh? Yeah, you know those big (and small) things you buy that usually have a lifespan ranging from a few days to a few years...that don't fit in your recycling bin...and that you're not sure are actually accepted at your weekly curbside pickup? Things like garden plant pots (days), cat litter pails (weeks), mismatched Tupperware parts (months), and lawn furniture (years.)

Diverting as much as we can from our regular waste stream saves the Town money on trash disposal costs, and saves the planet, too. That's because all weekly curbside recyclables or CCD drop-offs are converted into usable raw materials, such as auto interior components or new trash cans. Thus, the need to produce virgin plastic at polluting chemical plants is diminished when recycled raw materials are available to manufacturers.

We probably can't envision a time when plastics won't be part of our lives. But, we can do our part to "close the loop" and reuse or recycle everything we can.

For more information about Community Collection Day and visual examples of what is considered rigid plastic, see arlingtonma.gov/recycle

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