

# Why Can I Recycle Some Plastics But Not Others?



Recycling can be a confusing business. Here's an easy guide about why some things are accepted in your kerbside bin and others aren't.

## What can be recycled?

Technically, everything is recyclable. Yes, even items like dirty diapers and cigarette butts can and are being recycled by TerraCycle!

The main reason why something can't be recycled through your local council recycling is due to cost; if it costs more to process an item than what the recycler can sell it for, they won't accept it. As they can easily sell recycled glass, paper and some plastics, recyclers generally accept those materials.



## When you say some plastics...

Whether plastic items are recycled or not depends on size, colour and complexity:

- Smaller items, like bread bag tags and bottle caps, fall through the machinery during the sorting process.
- The machines that sort out the plastic at the processor can't pick out black or dark coloured plastic, so these items aren't diverted to recycling.
- Multi-layered plastics or items comprising several materials, such as toothpaste tubes or disposable razors, can be expensive to separate.



## So what's the solution?

TerraCycle can recycle almost everything that you can't put in your kerbside bin. That's because we partner with big name brands such as Colgate and Gillette who pay for the recycling of their products, as well as all other brands of the same waste stream.

In addition to making sure those products don't go to landfill, that sponsorship also means everyone can join the free programs at TerraCycle to send in their waste.

