

NOTICE to Residents of Loyalist Township

Changes to Recycling of #1 Plastic (PETE)

On October 1, 2007 Loyalist Township is making a minor change to how it collects plastic recycling.

The Township continues to collect recyclable plastics.

The Township collects #1 plastics with screw-top lids – like water bottles, pop bottles, and plastic peanut butter jars – and all #2, 4, 5, and 6 plastics.

No. 1 plastics without screw-top lids do not go in a Blue Box.

The Township no longer collects #1 plastics without screw-tops – like the clamshell containers, egg cartons, and the containers that sometimes carry deli products, muffins or fruit. As of Oct. 1, 2007, these items will no longer be collected for recycling. If residents continue to put these items into their blue boxes, the Township's collection contractor must manually remove them from the recycling stream so they can be diverted to the landfill .

Check the bottom of a plastic item to determine which type of plastic it is made from.

Remember this simple formulas: "Bottoms up!" Flip your plastic item upside down and look at its bottom. You will see a number from 1 to 7 inside a triangular symbol (known as mobius loop). The number tells you what type of plastic the container is made of. If the item has a #1 inside the triangle and has a screw top lid, it **CAN** go in your blue box. So do all items with a #2, #4, #5, or #6.

The Township does not send any recyclable material to area landfills.

The list of acceptable Grey Box recyclables remain the same

For more information on recycling and to obtain a personalized recycling calendar – visit the Loyalist Township website - www.loyalist.ca

Background:

What does PETE stand for?

(Polyethylene Terephthalate) PETE is a thermoplastic polymer resin of the polyester family and is used in synthetic fibers.

Why is this change being made?

1 PETE with screw top lids will still be collected and recycled. But there is no market for #1 PETE plastic without screw top lids because it has a different melting point that has an impact on the industrial recycling process.

In the past, companies buying recycling material collected by the Township allowed a limited amount of unacceptable plastic mixed in with the recyclable material. They no longer accept this. This means the Township's collection contractors must manually separate out the unacceptable plastic at a cost to the taxpayer.

Also, by encouraging residents to place all # 1 PETE in their blue box, the Township was encouraging the perception that items were being recycled when they were in fact being landfilled. By making this change, the Township hopes to raise the awareness that not all types of plastic are recyclable.