

EASTHAM RECYCLES

Focus on "Plastic"



Plastics bans

Eastham bans

- Single-use take out containers & plastic utensils must be 100% recyclable or compostable in a natural setting.
- Single-use plastic shopping bags
- Single use plastic bottle
- Plastic Straws
- Polystyrene
- Balloons

Town-by-town bans

lowercapenews.org/plastics

Upcoming dates

- Jul 11: Farmers' Market
- Jul 29 @ 6pm: Climate Action Plan Community Workshop (Eastham Library)



Plastic — The Problem That Won't Go Away

From "Plastic pollution: facts & figures" by Surfers Against Sewage (sas.org.uk):

- Over 1 in 3 fish caught for human consumption now contains plastic.
- Producing 1 ton of plastic generates 2.5 tons of CO₂.
- The world produces 400 million tons of plastic every year, a figure likely to triple by 2060.
- Only 9% of all plastic ever produced has been recycled.
- 11 million tons of plastic enter the ocean annually—equivalent to 2,000 garbage trucks dumped every day.
- By 2050, there could be more plastic than fish in the oceans.
- Plastic kills over 100,000 marine mammals and 1 million sea birds each year.



What not to recycle ...

July focus: Glass

Pop quiz: Should you remove the labels from glass bottles before recycling them?

Answer from last month's quiz

You do not need to remove the caps from plastic bottles before recycling them!

For more information

Check out these resources for more information.

- **RecycleSmartMA**
<https://recyclesmartma.org/>
- **Eastham Transfer Station**
<https://www.eastham-ma.gov/384/Solid-Waste->

Contact us

The Recycling Committee is always looking for volunteers as well as members. Contact us via the Eastham Town webpage at: <https://www.eastham-ma.gov/611/Recycling-Committee>

- Jul 15 @ 5pm: Recycling Committee Meeting at Town Hall

What Happens to Plastics in Eastham?

When plastic is thrown in the trash, Eastham pays to transport and dispose of the items at SEMASS.

When the plastic item is recycled, a vendor picks up the plastic at the transfer station at no cost to the Town.

What's Accepted in Eastham?

The Town of Eastham accepts Plastics 1 - 7 for recycling at the Transfer Station. The Plastic code number can be found within the triangle on the item.

Your well-rinsed #1 & #2 plastics dropped off at the Eastham Transfer Station Recycling container are almost always recycled!

From the article "[A Tale of Two Recycling Systems](#)" in the *Provincetown Independent* on April 23, 2025:

The idea that plastic recycling is pointless is a myth, though, (Kari) Parcell said. Once you narrow a stream down to recyclable plastics, she said, about 80 percent of the material is reused.

What's Not Accepted in Eastham?

- **Dirty plastic.** Wash first then recycle!
- **Plastic bags, plastic wrap** can be taken to the grocery store; See last month's newsletter for more details.
- **Rigid plastics** such as laundry baskets, lawn chairs, toys, plastic bins).
- **Black plastic food service trays** should be placed in the trash because it is missed by optical sorters at recycling sorting facilities and will either end up in the trash or contaminating other materials.
- **Plant pots & trays (plastic)** are made from a variety of plastic resins and are often dark colors, so put them in the trash. White pots also go in the trash. There is such a wide variety of sizes and resin types with pots that they likely will NOT be recycled. Some garden stores will take the trays back. The pots may be welcome at the Swap Shop, depending on current inventory.
- **Styrofoam** (chunks or pellets) can be reused by local shipping stores.