



RAVEN RECYCLING

Our Commitment is the Environment

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PLASTICS ARE RECYCLABLE

In Whitehorse, all hard plastics are recyclable.

Hard plastics are items like milk jugs, yoghurt cups and shampoo bottles.

Hard plastics also include plastic pop and alcohol bottles.

In the Yukon plastic pop and alcohol bottles are part of the deposit refund system.

Any ready-to-drink beverage container sold in the Yukon, except dairy and dairy substitutes such as soy-milk, are part of this system.

Now there are a lot of other plastic containers out there.

Milk jugs, yoghurt cups and shampoo bottles are also recyclable.

They just aren't part of the refund system.

Raven currently accepts these plastic items as long as they are sorted into the two main types of hard plastics.

The first is known as milk jugs or number two HDPE.

Raven gets more money for this type of plastic compared with other types.

So if it is a cloudy whitish plastic, and it's opaque or see-through, put it in with the milk jugs.

If in doubt, look for the number two inside a recycling symbol on the bottom of the container.

All other types of hard plastics should be put in the separate bins accessible twenty-four hours a day in front of the Raven Recycling Centre.

Long time recyclers will remember the awful system Raven had of separating plastics by the seven different numbers.

These numbers are on the bottom of each plastic container within the recycling loop or triangle.

Inside each triangle was a number from one to seven.



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This indicated the different type of plastics. For example, a one indicated a PET plastic, a two a HDPE and so on.

It used to be that each different numbered plastic had to go in its own separate bin.

This was not popular with the recycling public.

Nor was it popular with the Raven staff.

They were the ones that had to sort out all the mismatched plastics.

Fortunately for everyone involved, the Outside processor of plastics takes mixed plastics.

These mixed plastics can be recycled into a product known as “plastic wood”.

An example of this is used on the street benches on Third Avenue in Whitehorse.

The one hard plastic Raven cannot accept is anything that contained hydro-carbons.

Motor oil containers, be they the one or four litres, cannot be accepted. They are garbage.

The thin layer of hydrocarbons inside the oil container ruin the plastic recycling process.

There are two types of soft plastic that Raven accepts. Soft plastic is items like bags, cling wrap or six pack holders.

Clean plastic shopping bags are reusable. Place them in the small blue bin by the Raven entrance. Do not place them with the hard plastics.

Shopping bags wrap themselves around rollers and tend to jam equipment.

Please reuse shopping bags, be they plastic or cloth, as they are not recyclable in the Yukon.

There is a group of small wheeled blue bins right near the entrance to Raven. One of them is for reusable plastic bags.

The other soft plastic that is of major concern are the six-pack rings.

These hold together six beer or pop cans.

They are infamous for entangling birds. Once entangled the bird often dies as its freedom of movement is severely restricted.



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Raven has a separate wheelie bin for the six-pack rings. It's right next to the plastic shopping bag bin.

Raven ships the six-pack rings Outside for recycling. It is the only soft plastic that Raven ships Outside.

Given the environmentally destructive behaviour of the six-pack rings please bring them into Raven for recycling.

Do not thrown them out.

It has even been suggested that perhaps the six-pack rings should be part of the deposit/refund system.

Every time one was purchased a recycling surcharge would be added, for example about five cents.

This could be redeemed each time a six-pack ring was handed in at a recycling centre.

It would be one more initiative in dealing with the Yukon waste issue.

It would be a small part in contributing to a Zero Waste approach when handling those unwanted, valuable resources that some people call garbage.

Lewis Rifkind is an employee of the Raven Recycling Society.