

How to Recycle the Recycling Bag

Pete Matthews Jr – <https://3nt.xyz> – © June 29, 2025

Plastic bags cannot be recycled at the curbside. If we place a plastic bag of recycling in our curbside bin, it will likely be removed and placed as-is in the trash. Still, we want to use a plastic bag to line our kitchen recycling bin.



We can still recycle our recycling bag, when we have two interchangeable trash cans.

This is our usual trash situation, with the trash in front (right) and the recycling in back.



On trash day, we remove both cans. Whether or not recycling is collected on this day, we empty the kitchen recycling into the bin for curbside recycling. Then we place that kitchen can, bag and all, into the trash position – thereby recycling the bag.

We dispose of the bag of trash, put its kitchen can into the recycling position, and install a new bag.

This plan takes one extra bag for recycling – lifetime!

References

“What to Put in Your Bin,” <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/how-where-to-recycle#what-to-put-in-your-bin> – Recycling in Massachusetts.

“Plastic Film Recycling,” <https://plasticfilmrecycling.org/> – 20,000+ locations across the U.S.

“Clothing and Textile Recovery,” - <https://www.mass.gov/guides/clothing-and-textile-recovery> – “Textiles are banned from disposal or transport for disposal in Massachusetts.”

“Safely Manage Hazardous Household Products,” <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/safely-manage-hazardous-household-products> - in Massachusetts.