

Tales from Tim's Recycling Bin – Plastics Predicament

A few weeks ago, you may have heard a very loud scream coming from a car on Noble Avenue and thought what's going on. Sorry if I startled you. I was distressed about a news story I was hearing on the radio as I drove home from work. You may have heard the same story about plastics not being recycled – which was not accurate.

The news story included everything made from plastic such as machine cogs, floor mats, and other items that were never designed to be recycled.

I worry about these stories because it gives people the wrong impression about the value of recycling. Hundreds of Minnesota manufacturers use your recycled material in their new products and packaging.

Please keep putting your bottles, jugs, cups, and containers in your cart - don't add other plastic items even if they have the chasing arrow symbol. That symbol is not a government standard and only denotes the base polymer used to make the item.

Never put items in bags or put plastic bags in your cart.

Here are examples of what your items get recycled into:

#1 bottles and berry containers – new plastic bottles, strapping, carpet, and fiber for clothing

#2 milk jugs and laundry detergent jugs – lawn and garden products, outdoor furniture

#5 yogurt cups, margarine containers – auto parts, auto battery cases

Until next time, please place appropriate plastics in your cart my friends.

