

Film Plastics

In an effort to recycle as much as possible, many people mistakenly put their plastic bags in their recycling carts. Unfortunately, plastic bags and other types of film plastics do more harm than good when disposed of in this way.

Plastic bags, shrink wrap, bubble wrap and other types of “stretchy” film plastic easily tangle in the machinery that is meant to sort recyclables into separate categories. This slows efficiency of the facility, as the machines have to be shut down to allow workmen to climb in and cut out the bags with box cutters. This material accounts for at least a 25% reduction in efficiency.

So what should I do with them?

First and foremost, try to eliminate plastic film from your life as much as possible by taking your own reusable bags to the grocery store, reusing bubble wrap, and trying to reduce the amount of plastic film you buy in general.

Reuse and Recycling: Plastic bags can be reused in your home (e.g. as waste basket liners or doggy poo scooper bags.) Any bags you don't reuse can be properly recycled by placing them in the receptacles found near the front of most grocery stores. This ensures they will be recycled with other materials of the same kind and not have a chance to choke recycling sorting machinery.

For more information, go to wcnorthwest.com