

HELP REDUCE SINGLE-USE

Just because it's plastic or has the chasing arrows, does not mean it can always go in your recycling bin. Recycling facilities cannot recycle many single-use plastic items. By placing these items in a recycling bin it will actually contaminate the recycling stream, making recyclables less useful and less valuable.

Instead, try options such as reusable shopping bags, skipping the straw, or keeping a set of reusable utensils at work or with you when you're on the go.

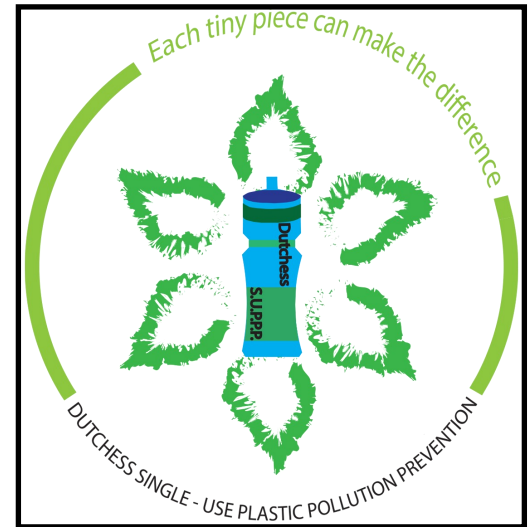


Image by Carlos Patino, Dutchess Community College

Single-use plastics are disposable and intended to be used only once, before being thrown away. Plastic packaging accounts for nearly half of all plastic waste globally, and much of it is thrown away within just a few minutes of its first use. When discarded in landfills or in the environment, plastic can take up to a thousand years to decompose.



Common single use plastic items you may be putting in your household recycling bin that recycling programs in Dutchess County **CANNOT** accept:

- Plastic Utensils
- Styrofoam®
- Cling wrap
- Coffee pods
- Plastic bags
- Plastic cups & plates
- Straws
- Ziplock bags®

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