



Sorting It Out: Symbols and Labeling



Symbols and text on products and packaging can be confusing, especially when we're trying to figure out how to properly recycle, compost or dispose of something in the trash. Learn how to sort it all out!

Just because an item has the recycling symbol it does not necessarily mean it can be recycled in your home recycling bin.

The chasing arrows symbol can have various different meanings. It can mean the item has potential to be recycled, is made with recycled content, or can be recycled only at special drop-off locations. It is up to us to know our local programs.



Items labeled as compostable plastic or bio-plastics **cannot** go in your home recycling bin. They are different in composition than fossil fuel based plastics and should not be mixed with regular plastics.

Tips to Sort Through It

- Take the guesswork out and contact your municipality or hauler for a list of materials that are accepted and not accepted in your local recycling program. You can also reference our [Dutchess County Recycling Encyclopedia](#).
- Save your recycling program rules and hang a list on your fridge or other visible location so you can easily and quickly check it instead of guessing.
- Remember symbols and labels on products and packaging can have different meanings and doesn't necessarily mean it is recyclable.

