

## People & Plastic Pollution – Part I

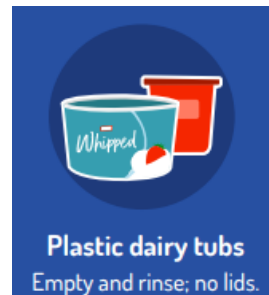
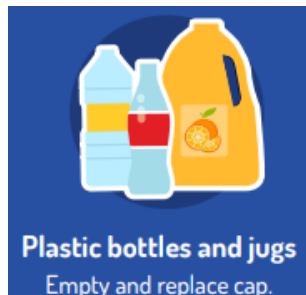
This is the first of two articles about plastics in our environment, how we are exposed to plastic pollution, and what can we do about it. This first article clarifies how best to handle common consumer waste plastic. There are two things to keep in mind:

- A. What we can put in our blue bins is no longer about the recycling symbols
- B. What we can take to stores for recycling is more than plastic shopping bags



### Here are the three ways to handle our waste plastic

#### 1. Place In Blue Bin



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#### 2. Collect & Take to Grocery or Retail Stores

- Shopping bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Bread bags
- Bubblewrap
- Newspaper bags
- Zip top bags

- Produce bags (w/ labels removed)
- Retail bags (w/ drawstring removed)
- Cereal box liners (that don't tear like paper)
- Overwrap (from paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, etc.)
- Case wrap (from bottle water cases)
- Air pillows (from packaging, air removed)

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#### 3. Put in Trash

- Plastic bags w/ strings
- Frozen food bags
- Candy bar wrappers
- Chip bags
- Six-pack rings
- Plastic egg cartons

- Plastic soil or mulch bags
- Pre-wash salad mix bags
- Plastic bags w/ food residue or labels
- Degradable/compostable bags or film packaging
- Clamshell containers (berry & takeout containers)
- Bulky/rigid plastics (buckets, baskets)

[Learn more](#)

In our next article, we explain why we want to handle our waste plastic these ways. It will discuss how we are exposed to plastic, how it may affect our health, and what we can do to reduce our exposures.