

RHONE STREET *Recycle Station* NEWS

RECYCLE STATION UPDATES

--- 🎉 **Celebrating 13 Months & 700+ lbs Diverted!** 🎉 An incredible milestone! As we welcome new folks, I have wonderful news to share: the Rhone Street Recycle Station is celebrating 13 months of being open! Thanks to your dedication, we have diverted over 700lbs of material from the landfill. Our community has grown to over 60 Newsletter subscribers and almost as many regular station users—thank you! This edition also marks my one-year publishing anniversary! It's been a fun journey of learning, and I look forward to helping us continue to divert waste and adopt more sustainable habits.

--- 👩🏻♀️ **A Quick Welcome for Our New Recyclers!** To all the new members of our recycling community: WELCOME! If you ever have a question about recycling a specific item, please don't hesitate to reach out! Send me your questions (a photo can be helpful) via Instagram Messenger. I am happy to help you find the correct answer. Remember, the only "dumb" question is the one you have but don't ask!

--- **Save the Date: Second Saturday Foster Road Trash Pickups;** I lead these SOLVE community litter pickups with all supplies provided and open to all age. Make plans to come help keep our community clean and green. Saturday, December 13, 10am-12pm at Laurelwood Park!!

--- **Metro Hazardous Waste facilities** - We have two Hazardous Waste facilities here in the Portland Metro area;

- Metro Central; 6161 NW 61st Ave, Portland, OR 97210; Open Mon – Sat from 9am - 4pm
- Metro South; 2001 Washington St, Oregon City, OR 97045; Open every day from 9am - 4pm

You can even see the Front Gate traffic in real-time on their website! Hazardous Waste Disposal is FREE for households with a limit up to 35-gal (based on container size not the quantity of material in the container)

MORE Info at - www.oregonmetro.gov/hazardouswaste

COLLECTIVE IMPACT: LANDFILL DIVERSION PROGRESS



In these last month we have kept **77.0lbs** from the Landfill!!!

For a total cost of **\$84.00*** *(*this does not include my time spent sorting, cleaning & transporting)*

These fees helped to pay to RECYCLE:

Through James: 3 bags of #6's; 4 bags of #5's; 1/2 bag of #4's; and a 1/2 bags of #2's

Through Ridwell: 2 bags of clear #1's; 2 bags of Lightbulbs; 6 bags of Plastic Film; 3 bags of Loose Plastic Caps; 2 bag's of Threads; 5 bags of Multi-Layer Plastic; and 1 bag of Styrofoam

HAZARDOUS WASTE

What is hazardous?

- paints and stains
- pool and spa chemicals
- pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and poisons
- motor oil, antifreeze and other automotive fluids
- thinners and solvents
- household cleaners and disinfectants
- batteries
- art and hobby chemicals
- aerosol spray products
- sharps (medical syringes)
- propane tanks or bottles from barbecue grills
- compact fluorescent light bulbs or CFLs, fluorescent tubes and ballasts
- mercury-containing items such as thermometers and thermostats

REDUCE & *Reuse*

**Updated
MONTHLY!**

a Second Life for Unwanted Items...

Let's work together to reduce waste and keep usable items out of landfills. Remember, reducing and reusing come before recycling. Ridwell partners with local and national organizations to ensure a wide variety of items find new homes or are transformed into new products. Let's all come together to declutter our homes AND help reduce unnecessary waste!

**Specialty items being collected by Ridwell for reuse...
Be Sure to Check collection dates for each item:**

Sun, Nov 30 - - Painting and Drawing Supplies:

Accepted - artistic paints; calligraphy nibs and pens; colored pencils; paintbrushes; pastels, drawing charcoal and drawing pencils; sketch pads; unused construction paper; unused poster board

NOT Accepted - binders; canvases and easels; chalk; clay or playdough; corks; glitter; heavily used or used up supplies; house paint; knitting or crocheting supplies; paper scraps; yarn

REuse Partner - Reclaim it! - www.reclaimitpdx.org | Dr MLK Jr Elementary School - www.pps.net/mlk | Schoolhouse Supplies - schoolhousesupplies.org

Sun, Dec 14 - - Empty Disposable Contact Lens Containers:

Accepted - plastic disposable lens packs; plastic flip-top contact lens cases; plastic screw-top cases

NOT Accepted - contact lens dispensers; disinfecting contact cases; fluid-filled contact lens containers; foil packaging; mixed material contact containers; new/unopened contact lenses; used contact lenses

REuse Partner - Merlin Plastics - <https://merlinplastics.com> | Hydroblox, Inc - www.hydroblox.com

Sun, Dec 28 - - Jewelry:

Accepted - bracelets, costume jewelry, necklaces, paired earrings, rings & watches in working condition

NOT Accepted - broken items, jewelry boxes or bags, non-jewelry items,

REuse Partner - Rose Haven - <https://rosehaven.org/> | SCRAP - portland.scrapcreativeuse.org

Sun, Jan 11 - - Reusable Rubber Bands:

Accepted - produce rubber bands (any color, any size), reusable rubber bands (any size, any color)

NOT Accepted - dried out or snapped rubber bands, hair bands, other closure items, twist ties, zip ties

REuse Partner - Birch Community Services - birchcommunityservices.org

Sun, Jan 25 - - Holiday Lights:

Accepted - big bulbs, clear string lights, colored string lights, damaged string lights, icicle strands, plastic rope lights, strong lights with tiny small bulbs (think fairy lights)

NOT Accepted - inflatable decorations, regular or electric candles, reindeer/light sculptures, train sets

REuse Partner - Green Label Recycling - greenlabelrecycling.com

Please place ANY of these items for Reuse Donation on my little GREEN porch chairs
(to the right of my front door)

Neighbors-Helping-Neighbors - - - Free Food Pantries:

SE 71st & Holgate - *look for the skeleton wearing a rainbow shall!* | 6804 SE Mitchell Ct | 3817 SE 70th

and check out @PDXFreeFridge on Instagram for so many other places to get food AND give food!

REDUCE & *Reimagine*

Items to Continually **SAVE** and Bring **HERE** for Reuse



• Books, all varieties in good, usable condition

Do you have any books just sitting around? Fiction or Non-Fiction books, Young Adult books, Infant Board Books, Comic Books, Graphic Novels...We use all book donations to fill our own sidewalk Little Free Library BUT we also use the books to restock at least 5 other Little Free Libraries, sometimes more, in the nearby vicinity & beyond.

*** Please place ANY book donations in the WHITE book bin on my porch*



• new/used Tennis Balls in good, usable condition

Do you have any old, used Tennis Balls just sitting around?

All Tennis Ball donations will be used for our sidewalk Doggie Ball & Stick Library

*** Please place ANY tennis balls for Donation in the BLUE ball bin on my porch*



• Used Pet Supplies

Do you have any old, used Pet Supplies laying around? Maybe they are damaged and could use some repair? Maybe your pet has outgrown or lost interest in something? Maybe you no longer have a pet but still have Pet Stuff?

All donations will go to Secondhand Pet Supply, a non-profit that aims to prevent waste from pet ownership.

*** Please drop donations in the GREEN bin at Recycle Station, or on my porch if something doesn't fit in the bin*

• CLEAN and Empty pump dispensers -

Got any empty soap or shampoo bottles with pumps? Don't toss them! I'm collecting CLEAN, used dispenser pumps (plastic or metal) to upcycle them into reusable lids.

NO Spray Nozzles or Droppers - JUST CLEAN Dispensers

*** Please place ANY donations in the PURPLE bin at the Recycle Station*



WEBSITE *Resources*

<https://5904serhonest.wixsite.com/recyclestation>

• **Newsletter Archives**

• **Fridge Collection Cheat Sheet -**

This shows everything I collect here at the Rhone Street Recycle Station

• **Social Media Links**

• **A growing list of Links to all of Oregon's Recycling Laws**

Jennifer Merrill
@rhonestreetretreat



venmo

at xxxx-xxxx-9506



zelle

FOLLOW US ON
facebook

www.facebook.com/RhoneStreetRetreat

FOLLOW US ON
Instagram

[@RhoneStreetRetreat](https://www.instagram.com/RhoneStreetRetreat)

DONATE PET SUPPLIES



Secondhand Pet Supply

Saving **more** than money.

Secondhand Pet Supply is a non-profit 501(c)(3) that aims to prevent waste from pet ownership. Whether it's promoting reuse, upcycling, or recycling products, we want to lower our pets' carbon paw-print as much as possible. We accept all pet-related items (except expired medication or food that has expired in the past 1 year).

Sanitization Process

Our customers, associates, and volunteers clean all products before sales to ensure you receive the highest-quality product possible.



(503) 498-8382

secondhandpetsupply.com

michael@secondhandpetsupply.com

926 Lloyd Center, Portland,
OR 97232

REMEMBER - we have a green collection bin **HERE** at the Rhone Street Recycle Station
(large items can go on my porch!)

Donate Funds



Sponsors:



Mama & Hapa's
ZERO WASTE SHOP



Metro





BLUE BIN

Talk

Plastic Caps
Plastic Caps
Plastic Caps
Plastic Caps
Plastic Caps
Plastic Caps



ALL of these Caps ARE
recyclable curbside
when tightly attached
to their plastic bottle



Plastic Bottles and
jugs larger than
2 inches by 2 inches
Recycle
curbside
AND



include
the caps
screwed
on tightly!

Did you know this cap is
recyclable curbside?!!



It IS when tightly attached to
the empty and clean plastic
jar that it came on!!

Frequently asked
recycling question:

Q: Can these small plastic pull tabs
be recycled?



A: No! These pull tabs CANNOT be
recycled curbside!

BUT they can be recycled through
third-party recyclers so we CAN
accept them here at Rhone Street
Recycle Station!

Can you believe that there
IS
a way to Recycle ALL
of these caps curbside!!!



It's TRUE!
Simply attach them tightly to a empty,
rinsed out PLASTIC bottle or jug that is
at least 2 inches by 2 inches in size!

Sodas, juice, milk, creamer, tea,
water, sports drink, etc

Do you get glass bottles and jars
with metal lids and caps like these?



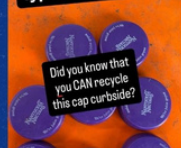
If so, you CAN recycle them by
putting them inside an empty metal
can, then crimping it shut before
tossing in your curbside recycle bin!

Do you drink
THIS beverage?



These caps ARE recyclable curbside
WHEN they are tightly attached to
the plastic bottle they came on!!

Do you drink THIS
type of beverage?



Did you know that
you CAN recycle
this cap curbside?

Simply empty the container
AND screw the cap on tightly
THEN toss in your curbside bin!

Do you use or drink
something that comes
with these caps?



If so, you CAN recycle
them curbside if they
are tightly screwed on
to the plastic bottle
they came on

Do you drink from a bottle with
one of these colorful caps?



If so, you CAN now recycle them by tightly
attaching them to their bottle before tossing
in your curbside bin or Bottle Drop bag!

Do you drink juice from a
container with THESE caps?



If so, you CAN now recycle them by
tightly attaching them to their bottle
before tossing in your curbside bin or
Bottle Drop bag!

Do you drink juice from a bottle
with a cap similar to these?



If so, you CAN now recycle them
by tightly attaching them to their
bottle before tossing in your
curbside bin or Bottle Drop bag!

Do you drink milk from a bottle
with a cap similar to these?



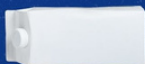
If so, you CAN now recycle them by
tightly attaching them to their bottle
before tossing in your curbside bin!

What about caps
on cardboard/
Tetra Pak containers?



While the cardboard/
Tetra Pak paper-based
packaging can be
recycled curbside the
plastic caps CANNOT!

Be Sure to REMOVE!
Then bring HERE to
recycle in our
Loose Caps bin



What about caps on
glass bottles?

Remove ALL caps on glass
bottles before putting the
glass bottle in the glass bin

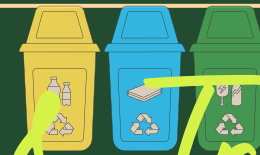


Plastic caps from glass
bottles can come HERE
to the Loose Caps Bin



RECYCLE STATION

Tips & Tricks



Don't Pitch Your Plastic Tubes!



Did you know many of those frustrating-to-empty squeeze tubes from your bathroom routine COULD be recycled right here at our Rhone Street Recycle Station?

While personal care tubes—like those for toothpaste, sunscreen, face wash, and lotions—are NEVER accepted in your curbside bin, they are frequently made of plastics we do collect!

These tubes are often labeled as #2 HDPE or #4 LDPE, both of which are valuable materials for recycling.

The Golden Rule: Find the Number!

The absolute most important step is finding the recycling number (or corresponding letters) on the tube.

Just like the rules for all plastics we accept, we must be able to identify the resin type to ensure it can be properly processed. If the tube does not have a clear #1, #2, #4, #5 or #6 label, we cannot accept it, and it must unfortunately go in the trash.

Cleanliness Counts: Empty & Rinse!

For any plastic to be successfully recycled, it must be clean and free of contamination. Since squeeze tubes are notorious for holding on to every last drop, I have a trick for you...

TIP: To ensure your tubes are completely empty, take a pair of scissors and slice the tube open down one side. This lets you easily scrape out the remaining product and give the interior a quick rinse. Once empty and clean, please replace the cap before dropping it off at the station.

No Recycle Number/Letter = Trash

- **Look closely:** The label is often small, sometimes near the seam or on the cap. Keep a sharp eye out!
- **Cap Check:** Don't forget to check the cap as well; it may have a different number than the tube itself.

A Shout-Out to Great Labeling!

Gotta give a huge thank you to companies that make recycling easier! Tom's of Maine is an excellent example of clear, responsible packaging. Their tubes often feature a highly visible instruction:

"Once empty, replace cap and recycle with #2 plastics."

This clear labeling helps everyone ensure they are recycling correctly.

I appreciate you all for being so good about looking out for new and different items to bring here to recycle.

There is SO much plastic in our lives. Noticing it and seeing if we can at least give it a new life by recycling it, is a great step - - next comes finding other non-plastic alternatives!



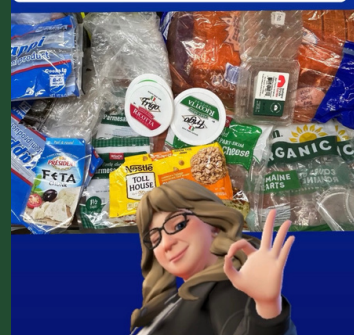
ECO-FRIENDLY *Living*

Closing the Loop on "Un-Recyclable" Waste

We all strive to be more eco-friendly, but sometimes the complexity of recycling rules and packaging labels can feel overwhelming. What happens when a commonly used item is not accepted in the local curbside bin? The easy answer is to toss it in the trash, but the better, more sustainable answer is to become a recycling detective and take personal responsibility for those tricky items!

I want to share two recent examples that highlight this proactive approach, showing how simple adjustments to your daily routine and activities can dramatically reduce landfill waste and "close the loop" on materials that might otherwise be rejected.

POV: You know exactly which items your local bin rejects, so you're the person bringing the designated collection bag to the cooking event and personally guaranteeing those materials get properly recycled.



The Kitchen Crusader: Extending Recycling Outside Home Life Activities

Imagine you're at a cooking event, surrounded by community members, food prep, and, inevitably, a pile of packaging. Most people toss things without a second thought, but as an Eco-Friendly Living enthusiast you can seek an opportunity.

As I share in the attached photo, I bring a designated collection bag to the community cooking events I attend. Why? Because I know exactly which items—like certain food packaging, containers, lids, and flexible food wrappers—are not accepted in the standard curbside bin, but are accepted here at the Rhone Street Recycle Station.

This simple act transforms a social gathering from a one-way trip to the landfill into a responsible, closed-loop process. And provides opportunity to share recycling knowledge with other community members at the event.

It's all about knowing your local options, being willing to take responsibility to collect the items, and taking the extra steps to ensure the materials you collect are processed correctly.

Feeding the Birds, Responsibly: Conscious Consumption in Action

Another challenge is conscious consumption, particularly when choosing products you buy. This winter, I am considering making my own suet blocks to feed the backyard birds, which would eliminate packaging entirely.

However, I acknowledge that sometimes purchasing products is necessary. When I do buy suet, I make a specific choice based not entirely on price or flavor, but rather on recyclability.

I am thinking about making some of my own suet this winter to feed all our small native backyard birdies



But in the meantime, I buy my suet blocks, wash the square #1 containers to recycle curbside (after all they are 2in x 2in) As well as wash & dry the Multi-Layer Plastic tops to recycle here at my recycle station

The suet I choose has packaging components that are not curbside recyclable: a #1 plastic square container (too small for most curbside sorting equipment at 2 times 2 inches) and a Multi-Layer Plastic top BUT they can be recycled through other recycling streams.

My Solution?

Ensure all items are cleaned and dried properly to be dropped off at the Rhone Street Recycle Station to be recycled properly

This is sustainability in action: recognizing the challenge of specific packaging and having a plan for *each component* to keep it out of the trash. Whether I ultimately decide to DIY the suet or continue to purchase it, my commitment to responsible end-of-life processing for the packaging remains.

Your Next Step: Become a Recycling Detective

These examples prove that being "eco-friendly" is about more than just tossing a clean bottle in the recycle bin. It's about proactive education and small, consistent actions.

I challenge you to look at your routine and activities—whether it's a family picnic, your weekly grocery run, or your hobby supplies—and ask yourself:

1. What items am I currently throwing away because I think they are un-recyclable?
2. Does our curbside recycling, the Recycle Station, or a specialty program accept this item?
3. How can I prepare this item (wash, dry, separate) to ensure it can be processed?
4. Can I make a different purchasing choice that has easier-to-recycle packaging components?

By adopting this "Recycling Detective" mindset, you can turn items that were once considered landfill-bound into valuable resources, making your own personal commitment to a more sustainable world.

How do you close the loop in your daily life?

Share your tips and I'll include them in future issues!

How do YOU feed the birdies in the Winter?

Party Smarter, Waste Less



The Problem:

- Unnecessary Waste
- Excess
- Cluttered Storage

The Solution:

REthink & REuse Party Kits

Everything you need,
nothing you don't!

no waste, no storage, no cleanup!

Check us out



@rethinkreusepartykits



rethinkreusepartykit@gmail.com



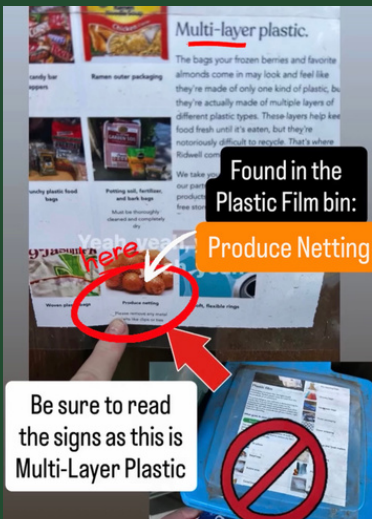
www.facebook.com/REthinkREusePartyKit



REthink & REuse
Party Kits! LLC

Rent - Party - Return... We do all the Clean-up!

MULTI-LAYER PLASTIC VS Plastic film



Sorting Success: Multi-Layer Plastic vs. Plastic Film

Navigating the world of recycling plastics is very tricky, and that is no exception when it comes to knowing the difference between Multi-Layer Plastic (MLP) and Plastic Film!

Here at the Rhone Street Recycle Station we have specific bins for each of these categories, and provide signage to help identify what goes in which bin. BUT it is still tricky, I know.

For example, recently Produce Netting (like the kind used for small oranges or avocados) was found in the Plastic Film bin. But as the signs indicate, this netting is considered Multi-Layer Plastic and belongs in the MLP bin.

Please take an extra moment to check the clear labeling on the fence and on the bins themselves. While I diligently sort every item, your careful attention to the items you drop-off and the signage makes a huge difference in keeping these recycling streams clean and reducing sorting time!

So triple check the items you drop off and the signage and if you are still unsure, reach out and ask.



Candy Wrapper Conundrum: Know Your Layers

Not all candy wrappers are created equal when it comes to the Multi-Layer Plastic (MLP) bin. This candy wrapper photo highlights a classic comparison: Skittles versus M&M's.

- Skittles wrappers are 100% MLP and are recyclable here.
- However, M&M's wrappers are often made from a combination of plastic and paper, such as a paper wrapper with a plastic coating or lining. Items that are a mix of paper and plastic—like plastic-coated teabag wrappers or bubble-wrap-lined paper mailers—must go in the trash bin, not our MLP bin.

NOTE - Double-check M&M's packaging because they are piloting a shift to compostable paper-only wrappers in some locations. Since they don't specify on their website where this pilot is occurring, reading the bulk packaging is the only way to be sure if what you have is trash or a new, paper-only product.



Hard vs. Soft Plastics: Don't Rely on the Number Alone

When sorting your plastics, remember this crucial rule for the Rhone Street Recycle Station: our numbered bins (#1, #2, #4, #5, and #6) are only for HARD plastics! Soft plastics should never be placed in these bins, even if you find a recycling number printed on them. Many times I have found soft items, such as grape bags or small tags, placed in the numbered bins because they display a number like a #4 or #5 symbol.

The attached photo shows a handful of little purple soft plastic tags that all have a #5 symbol, but because they are soft plastics, they belong in the Multi-Layer Plastic (MLP) bin.

If the plastic is soft, it is either Plastic Film or Multi-Layer Plastic—ignore the number and put it in the correct soft plastic bin.

