

Dear Recycle Lady



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Can plastic shampoo, conditioner, and gel bottles be recycled? Curious

Dear Curious,

Yes, most shampoo, conditioner and gel bottles can be recycled. If your bottle has a #1 or #2 in the recycle symbol on the bottom of the bottle, it recycles. If it has a #5, it is not recyclable at our Recycling Center. It is important to check for these numbers, as according to Earth 911, more than 552 million shampoo bottles end up in landfills every year. Just rinse the bottle out and turn it upside down to drain it. If this is not done, the liquid drains out on the floor and becomes a safety hazard for our workers.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Christmas is rapidly approaching and it's time to wrap packages. Are there any gift wrappings that are recyclable? Package Wrapper

Dear Package Wrapper,

Unfortunately, most festive holiday wrapping paper is not recyclable. Because most wrapping paper is often made from recycled paper, the fibers making up the paper are just too short to be recycled again. Have you tried alternatives to using holiday wrapping paper? For example, use brown paper bags to wrap your packages and add colorful decorations, such as cutouts from last year's Christmas cards. Other possibilities for wrapping packages are colorful dish towels or fabric remnants.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Some of my strings of Christmas lights are tangled, missing bulbs and unusable. Can they be recycled? Messy

Dear Messy,

Yes, any string of lights, regardless of condition, can be recycled. The copper that is within the cord has value and earns money for the Recycling Center.

Dear Readers,

More good news for our wildlife, marine life and waterways. Corona, Miller, Heineken, and other beer companies are ditching plastic 6-pack rings and replacing them with compostable alternatives. This change will remove 1,000 tons of plastics annually from the environment. Anyone who wants to make a small, but significant, daily impact on our oceans can do so by joining recyclers in 130 countries who click on <https://www.freetheocean.com>. Each click funds the removal of one piece of plastic from oceans or coastlines. To date, over 1.5 million pieces of plastic have been removed. For a good laugh, look at The Comedy Wildlife Photo Award Finalists, <https://blog.therainforestsite.greatergood.com/comedy-wildlife-photo-awards>. The contest offers us a fun look at our wonderful wildlife and helps promote conservation.

Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests to recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com. Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.