

Dear Recycle Lady



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Articles in newspapers and magazines are beginning to say that plastic straws are bad for the environment and should be banned. Why are plastic straws so harmful? Confused

**Dear Confused,**

**In the U.S. alone, 500 million (500,000,000!) straws are used and thrown out every day. They are contributing to the discarded, slow-to-disintegrate plastic that is creating massive islands of plastics in all bodies of water. They also contribute to climate change because oil is used to make them. Restaurants could begin to slow the discarding of straws by not automatically giving out straws and we can help by not accepting them.**

Dear Recycle Lady,

When I was at the Recycling Center in Ronceverte one of the workers told me that a magnet can be used to tell the difference between a steel can and an aluminum can. They said a magnet will be attracted to the steel can when placed next to the can, but not the aluminum can. Good Information

**Dear Good Information,**

**Thanks for the email about magnets. Your information is correct. If you hold a magnet close to a steel can, it will stick to the can. However, when a magnet is close to an aluminum can it will not stick. Interestingly, it will not stick to copper or brass either.**

Hi Recycle Lady,

I read your March 16, 2019 column in the Mountain Messenger. Part of what you said to Recycler is, "Alderson - Recycle container in Methodist Church parking lot. Provide your own bags." What you wrote may make people think they should put their recyclables in plastic bags and throw the bags in the bins, but this is not how it should be done according to the Recycling Center. Reader

**Dear Reader,**

**My apologies for the misleading information about the recycling containers in Alderson. You are correct. Bags must not be placed in the recycle containers. All recyclables must be sorted and placed in the appropriate bins according to their labels.**

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