

Dear Recycle Lady



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Dear Readers,

Believe it or not, today begins the second year I have written this column. Thanks to everyone, the readership of Dear Recycle Lady has increased way beyond all expectations. It is now published in three newspapers. Additionally, comments to the recycle workers indicate that the number of readers is increasing exponentially. Your questions have led me into recycling research that is both interesting and exciting. Please keep the questions and comments coming. All are greatly appreciated. They add so much to this column.

Dear Recycle Lady,

What are "single-use products? Why are they considered bad for the environment? Questioning

Dear Questioning,

Single-use products are those products that are used one time, for only minutes. Yet their impact on the environment can last thousands of years. Plastic bags, bottles for water, straws, paper towels and napkins, and Styrofoam coffee cups are some of the worst of these items. Awareness of the potential harm of these products has led businesses like Hyatt Hotels, McDonalds in the U.K. and Ireland, as well as Starbucks plan to go plastic-straw-free by 2020. These actions alone will save one billion straws per year and countless numbers of wildlife and marine life. We can all take a few simple steps to decrease the use of single-use products by carrying reusable water bottles, coffee cups and straws.

Dear Recycle Lady,

Is tissue paper recyclable? Crafter

Dear Crafter,

No, tissue paper is not recyclable for two primary reasons. First, because it has a lower fiber content, tissue paper is harder to recycle. Second, most of today's tissue paper has been made from recycled paper, so it can't be recycled again. Its short fibers make it good compost. There are many craft items that can be made with the various colors of tissue paper.

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.