

Trash the Trash Patch Program



Research indicates that approximately 51 billion pieces of litter end up on American roadways each year—that's an astonishing 6,729 items per mile annually! And that number doesn't even include litter found in parks, schools, or other natural areas. Much of this waste eventually makes its way into our lakes, rivers, and even the ocean.

As Girl Scouts, we have a responsibility to take action and help create a cleaner, healthier world for everyone!

Steps to earn your Trash the Trash patch:

- [Order your patch](#) (available while supplies last)!
- Complete all activities.

Activities marked with * have additional resources attached to this document.

Activities in [green](#) are linked to online resources.

1. Review the Know Before You Go handouts.*
2. Make a plan to pick up trash.
 - ☐ Choose a place to pick up trash and recyclables. Make sure to reach out to the location staff for permission before arrival.
 - ☐ Choose a friend or family member to accompany you along with an adult.
 - ☐ Bring separate bags for trash and recycling.
 - ☐ Pick a day and time to collect the trash and recycling.
 - ☐ Wear gloves and close-toed shoes. Consider wearing two types of gloves. Nitrile gloves protect you from direct contact transmission, and work-type gloves protect you from injury.
3. Collect trash and recycling for at least one hour or totaling 2 pounds for each person collecting.
 - ☐ Weigh your trash and recycling separately. Record the weight(s). Dispose of the trash in a dumpster or other receptacle that is directly emptied by commercial trash services. Recycle glass bottles, cans, plastic bottles and other recyclables.
 - ☐ Wash your hands well for at least 30 seconds with soap and water (you could recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law for timing), then use hand sanitizer if available.
4. [Report you efforts and send us a photo](#) of yourself and your friend or family member with your trash and/or recycling by August 1.

Badge Connections

Daisy: Daisy Eco Learner
Brownie: Eco Friend, Outdoor Adventurer,
Girl Scout Way

Junior: Eco Camper, Girl Scout Way
Cadette: Eco-Trekker
Senior: Eco Explorer



Know Before You Go

Before going out and picking up litter, it is important to know why trash pollution is a problem and what we can do to prevent it in our everyday lives!

- Broken glass or sharp objects can injure people and pets.
- Dumped garbage can harm plants and stunt their growth.
- Trash can block plants from getting the light and space they need to grow
- Small animals can get stuck inside bottles or jars, leading to starvation.
- Birds, wildlife and marine animals often get tangled in or eat plastic waste
- Trash pollution can become a long-term problem when it is not cleaned up. Our garbage breaks down and sometimes has chemicals that are not healthy for the soil. If these chemicals get into the soil it can be absorbed by the plants and then become a part of the food chain.

As Girl Scouts, we can make a difference by working with families and troops to have a clean-up day. Before you get started, learn what items can be recycled, what happens to some of those recycled items, and learn the rules for staying safe during the clean-up.

SAFETY BEFORE YOU BEGIN	SAFETY DURING CLEANUP
Assess the area. Look for hazards and possible dangers.	Supervise participants and do not let children go off alone.
Be prepared, be safe. Bring proper safety equipment.	Do not pick up dangerous items such as needles.
Have enough supervisors for the group.	Be careful near roads and watch for cars.
Sort garbage, recycling, and large items separately.	Do not carry heavy items alone.

HOW LONG UNTIL IT'S DECOMPOSED?

ESTIMATED DECOMPOSITION RATES OF WASTE IN OUR OCEANS



REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE





MIXED RECYCLING

place together, loose in recycling bin

MUST BE EMPTY, RINSED IF POSSIBLE



PAPER & CARDBOARD

(shredded paper in clear, tied bags only)



PLASTIC BOTTLES, TUBS & JUGS



METAL CANS



GLASS JARS & BOTTLES

TOP 10 NOT ACCEPTED



plastic
bags



batteries



hoses
& tangles



fabric



diapers &
medical waste



hangers



metal
car parts



plant &
food waste



plastic
toys



vhs
tapes



MILLENNIUM
RECYCLING INC

THE LIFE CYCLE OF A RECYCLED CAN!

STAGE 1: USED CAN

This process begins when you place an aluminum can into a recycling bin. The can is recovered at a recycling facility and taken to an aluminum refining plant.



STAGE 2: ALUMINUM INGOT

Every can is first cleaned and melted into a solid, block form, called an ingot.



STAGE 3: ROLLED ALUMINUM "BLANKS"

Aluminum is heated up, and pressed thin with a machine. The thin sheet of aluminum is then punched into circles called "blanks."



The aluminum can is one of the most sustainable, convenient, and versatile containers. It is known for being lightweight, strong, and for securely protecting the quality of beverage products.

Aluminum cans are also very recyclable! 100% of the can's materials can be reused during the recycling process so natural resources are preserved. Recycling aluminum can happen pretty quickly too - according to the Can Manufacturers Institute, from the time a used aluminum can is put in a recycling bin, it typically takes approximately 60 days for that can to be made into a brand new can!

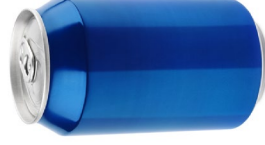


IT TAKES A LOT OF WORK, ENERGY AND RESOURCES TO MAKE JUST A SINGLE CAN,

which is why it is important to recycle. Aluminum never loses its quality or physical properties so remember to recycle to keep the cycle going!

STAGE 5: NEW CAN

Once the cans are labeled, each can is filled with liquid and is ready to be sent to stores, schools and vending machines.



STAGE 4: CAN FORM

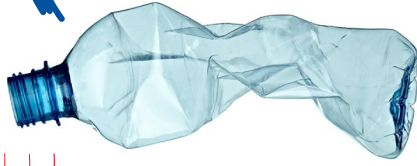
Each blank is molded using a form into the shape of a can. The top of the can is made separately and is attached to the can in the next stage.



THE LIFE CYCLE OF A RECYCLED BOTTLE!

STAGE 1: USED BOTTLE

This process begins when you place an empty bottle into a recycling bin. The bottle is recovered at a recycling facility and taken to a plastic reclaiming plant.



STAGE 2: DIRTY PET FLAKES

Used plastic bottles are shredded with a machine into tiny pieces, called flakes. The flakes will be washed to help remove glue, paper, sand, or other contaminants.



STAGE 3: CLEAN PET FLAKES

Whether it is with a float-sink process or a washing line, the plastic flakes receive continuous wash of water and detergent to remove pieces of labels, caps, germs, or dirt that might have been found in the dirty flakes.



STAGE 6: NEW BOTTLE

The preform is heated up again until the plastic is soft enough to flow. Then pressurized air pushes the plastic out to the edges of the mold, which forms the plastic into the shape of a bottle. The blow mold is cooled and it opens up to release a brand new bottle.



Plastic #1 is made of polyethylene terephthalate, aka PETE, PET, or polyester. It's known for its strength, durability, barrier properties, and ability to be formed into various shapes.

Plastic bottles are very recyclable! Recycling a plastic bottle uses much less energy and natural resources than making one from new (virgin) materials, so remember to put your used bottles in the recycling bin to help give them new life!

STAGE 5: PREFORM

Using high heat and pressure, the resin pellets are melted down and injected into a mold to create the "preform."



STEP 4: RESIN PELLETS

The clean flakes are then melted down at a high temperature and formed into resin pellets. At this point, they could be used to make all kinds of useful things.

