



FAQ FOR PHONE REPRESENTATIVES (JPM AND BOROUGH STAFF)

September 2019

What can be recycled?

In the Borough of Pottstown, all plastic pouches, wraps, and bags can now be recycled in your JP Mascaro recycling carts. This includes grocery bags, bread bags, dog food bags, shrink wrap, wrap from cases of paper towels/water bottles/toilet paper/diapers/etc., cheese pouches, salad bags, zip top storage bags, bubble wrap, air pillows, detergent pouches, zippered pouches, baby food pouches, chip bags, snack food pouches, and the list goes on!

How should residents prepare recyclables?

1. Make sure all flexible plastic packaging is empty, clean, and dry.
2. Place the packaging loose in the recycling cart. Do not bundle together or place in one large bag.
3. Close the cart lid – don't let material blow away!

What CANNOT be recycled?

Please don't recycle vinyl items such as shower curtains, packages for bedding/linens, or inflatable toys. Also, please don't recycle any packages that are not empty. Never recycle diapers, small plastic like cutlery, or tangles – such as hoses, chains, cords, string.

What if I don't live in Pottstown? Can I still recycle flexible plastic packaging?

Due to the experimental nature of this pilot program, right now only Pottstown residents can participate. As the pilot progresses, we will add flexible plastic packaging to more and more communities' recycling programs. **ASK: Where do you reside? Please keep track of any locations where residents want to participate.**

What is MRFF?

Materials Recovery for the Future (MRFF) is a research collaborative of leading brands, manufacturers, recyclers and trade associations in the recovery value chain that are committed to increased recovery of flexible packaging and improved recycled feedstocks for manufacturing.

Why Recycle Flexible Packaging?

Flexible packaging—pouches, bags and film wraps—has grown faster than other packaging formats, including those that are traditionally recycled. However, in North America, flexible packaging is not accepted in the current recycling infrastructure. While flexible packaging offers many sustainability benefits (e.g. requires less material/energy to make and reduces food waste) it is currently not recycled curbside. Instead, this potentially valuable plastic material is going to landfill. MRFF has researched ways to get this material back into new products for the Mascaro pilot.

What can flexible packaging get recycled into?

The MRFF project is currently testing a wide range of uses for the material collected during the pilot, including plastic pellets, construction materials, and durable goods.

Where can I learn more about the MRFF project?

More information is on the website www.materialsrecoveryforthefuture.com.

Visit www.JPMascaro.com to download the flexible plastic packaging recycling flyer for the Borough of Pottstown.