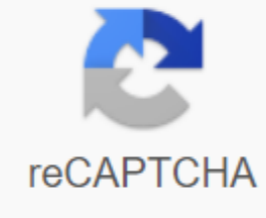




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## Are plastic forks and spoons recyclable

Some plastic forks and plates can be recycled, but not all. STORY HIGHLIGHTS Plastic tiles, cutlery (marked #6) are recyclable Many curb recycling programs accept them; However, many can't recycle them in themselves in wind chime cutlery (Mother Nature Network) – Question: My office serves lunches every day, and the company provides plastic plates and cutlery. I've been eating dinners for years, and yesterday, when I left the conference room where food is stored, I noticed an overcrowded trash can in the corner stuffed into plastic gills. That made me think: is this what we use every day to recycle dinner? Answer: Wow! Where do you work and are there any holes for snarky advice columnists? Board dinners? It beats brown bagging it every day. You're probably saving a fortune! Then again, maybe your company has seen catering dinners as a way to avoid giving everyone a raise this year – and the company is one saving a fortune. In truth, plastic plates and cutlery (marked #6 underneath as a resin identification code) are recyclable, and many curbside recycling programs accept them along with other types of plastics; However, many do not, and this is because it is simply not profitable. MNN: Bird-loving fifth-grader raises thousands for the Bay Interestingly, another type of plastic #6 is packing peanuts, which many shipping stores will back and reuse. You can try to sneak into some used plastic cutlery with your next drop-off at your local UPS store, but chances are that after that, it won't let you recycle peanuts there again. If you have a curb-edge recycling program that #6 plastics, recycle them at all costs. But if you don't, and you want to be eco-conscious, you can try using them again yourself. They are usually good for about a week or so before they start to take the smell and color of Tuesday's spinach lasagna. MNN: The 10 smallest houses in the world Another option is to bring your own disposable cutlery from home and not use plastic things. If this is inevitable (how many pre-packaged dinners these days come with cutlery inside), why not save them and use them for your next party or family gathering? You can also take a little home and make wind cutlery gong with them with your kids. Better yet, collect a whole bunch and pass them to a preschool teacher to wind chimes from across the class into artistic activities. You will probably be grateful for the idea and for donating supplies. MNN: Giving up unwanted mail just made it easier Can you use plastic cutlery too much? I didn't think so until it recently came to light that Qantas Airlines had been accused of plastic cutlery for as many as 30 flights. They said they would send them to a special car wash between each use and cutlery can withstand more wear than regular cutlery - but eek. Doesn't that make you grow grow up? It's one thing to reuse your own plastic cutlery, even your family's plastic cutlery. It's quite different to use some random passenger cutlery from yesterday's red-eyed melbourne. I would also suggest asking your company to reduce the amount of plastic used in these supplied lunches. Maybe you can make the whole office bring its own disposable plates and cutlery from home or encourage the company to deliver real dishes and cutlery. You can completely eliminate the need for plastic tableware. Until then, enjoy free food and don't forget to provide contact information for the HR chief in your company. Happy dinner! MNN: 10 surprisingly easy alternative energy sources© Copyright 2011 Mother Nature Network Q: My office serves plastic lunches and cutlery every day. I've been eating dinners for years, and yesterday, when I left the conference room where food is stored, I noticed an overcrowded trash can in the corner stuffed into plastic gills. It made me think, is this what we use every day to recycle dinner? A: Wow! Where do you work and are there any holes for snarky advice columnists? Board dinners? It beats brown bagging it every day. You're probably saving a fortune! Then again, maybe your company saw a catered dinner as a way of giving everyone a raise this year, and the company is one saving a fortune. In truth, plastic plates and cutlery (labeled #6 underneath as their resin identification code) are recyclable, and many curbside recycling programs accept them along with other types of plastic, but many don't, and that's because it's simply not cost-effective. Interestingly, another type of plastic #6 is the packaging of peanuts, which many transport stores will back and reuse. You can try to sneak into some used plastic cutlery with your next drop-off at your local UPS store, but chances are that after that, it won't let you recycle peanuts there again. If you have a curb-edge recycling program that accepts #6, recycle them at all costs. But if you don't, and you want to be eco-conscious, you can try using them again yourself. They are usually good for about a week or so before they start to take the smell and color of Tuesday's spinach lasagna. Another option is to bring your own disposable cutlery from home and not use plastic things. If this is inevitable (how many pre-packaged dinners these days come with cutlery inside), why not save them and use them for your next party or family gathering? You can also take a little home and make wind cutlery gong with them with Better yet, collect a whole bunch and pass them on to the preschool teacher to make wind chimes with class for artistic activities. You will probably be grateful for the idea and donation of stocks. Can you take reusing plastic cutlery too far? I didn't think so until it recently came to light that Qantas Airlines had been accused of reusing plastic cutlery on as many as 30 flights. They said they send them to a special car wash between each use, and their cutlery can withstand more wear than regular cutlery, but eek. Doesn't that just make you grow up? It's one thing to reuse your own plastic cutlery, even your family's plastic cutlery. It's quite different to use some random passenger cutlery from yesterday's redeye from Melbourne. I would also like to propose that you try to get your company to reduce the amount of plastic used in all these lunches. Maybe you can make the whole office bring its own disposable plates and cutlery from home or encourage the company to deliver real dishes and cutlery. You can completely eliminate the need for plastic tableware. Until then, enjoy free food and don't forget to give me contact information for your HR boss. Happy lunching! Chanie Did you know that any type of plastic is fully recyclable? And at least 20 percent of what's in our trash cans now should be in our bins, according to Planet Ark's Brad Gray. However, it's important to know and understand not all items can be recycled that way. The most common recycling error is throwing in soft plastics such as plastic bags, food packaging or any scrunchable plastic in with the rest of the plastic containers. Brad Gray's mantra when deciding what to recycle is: If in doubt, leave it. (ABC Radio Sydney: Amanda Hoh) [Soft plastics] are the number one form of pollution in the recycling system, Mr Gray said. The systems are not designed to pick them up, to literally get tangled in conveyor belt, and the entire recycling system must be stopped so that they can get them out, or after each shift people go to the machines to cut them. Mr Gray's biggest tip was to check with the local council what they accepted, as each area has different recycling systems and sorting processes after collecting the bins. What can be put in the basket at the curb? All plastic containers can be recycled, including plastic fruit punnets and takeaway containers. Plastic trays, such as meat trays or soft food trays, vary depending on the advice. Rigid hard plastic trays can be recycled, while soft polystyrene trays can't, meaning many councils say not both. Recycled plastics are converted into small beads, which are then new products. (ABC Radio Sydney: Amanda Hoh) All plastic beverage bottles can end up in baskets, although Planet Ark advises people to remove the lids from the bottles and put them in garbage. The bottle lids are too small to be by factory sorting machines. If you leave a lid, there is a chance that there will be liquid left inside, and since many sorting machines use air to sort items, any liquid left inside can weigh them, Mr. Gray said. Also if you leave them on, sometimes the pressure can build up and when the elements are thickened in bales, they can explode and bales can break and need to be reflected. Loading... All scrunchable plastics, including shopping bags, plastic food packaging, fruit nets and dry cleaning bags can be recycled, though most often not through a basket at home. There are only a few councils, mainly in regional cities, that will accept these soft plastics. The best method is to pack all the plastic bags in one bag and take it to a redcycle container located in most subways and large regional supermarkets. These plastics are then recycled into school plastic furniture. Here are some tips to help you reduce the amount of plastic you use. Read moreWhat about my party fork? Plastic forks, spoons and knives cannot end up in the bin because the utensils are the wrong shape to be properly separated by sorting machines. But some councils will take plastic plates. Do not forget about bathroom productsMost households rarely have a basket in the bathroom, but shampoo bottles, cream containers and other plastic cosmetics can be recycled. Even non-electric toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes and floss containers can be recycled, although the only national system for accepting these items is TerraCycle. The recycle program, funded by Colgate, can send a zero waste box to you, or they work by multiple representatives. Published: 23 May 2017Tuesday 23 May 2017 at 21:00 21:00