



## ASK A MASTER RECYCLER

SUSY LACER, MASTER RECYCLER  
 A MONTHLY COLUMN OF RECYCLING  
 INFORMATION PROVIDED BY FLORENCE  
 MASTER RECYCLERS  
 For the Siuslaw News

(A monthly column of recycling information provided by Florence Master Recyclers)

**Q.** What's the difference between recycling and reducing? Isn't recycling the big thing?

**A.** Oregon law defines waste prevention, aka, reducing, as the number one priority for managing solid waste in our state. For the past 30 years, recycling has been the buzzword.

However, waste prevention is where it's really at.

Reducing — the first of the popular Three Rs (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle), is what's known as an upstream activity. It involves reducing waste via our choices in the design, purchase and use of consumer materials. In a nutshell, reduce means using less stuff.

This is beneficial because waste prevention can have a greater effect than recycling since it can decrease environmental impacts throughout all stages in the life cycle of an item.

This includes resource extraction

of the raw materials, manufacturing of the item, transportation of both raw materials and the finished product, and end-of-life management such as recycling or disposal.

For households or businesses, reducing can usually save you a lot more money than recycling.

Recycling, by contrast, is a process for diverting discarded items away from the trash and back into the flow of manufacturing, where the materials can then be transformed and used as feedstock to make new products.

Waste prevention, or reducing, means not acquiring unnecessary products in the first place.

**Q.** The "doggy bag" container from my favorite restaurant has three little arrows on the bottom. That means it's recyclable, right?

**A.** No. Unfortunately, that popular "chasing arrows" symbol is simply how recyclers find out what plastic resin the container is made from.

Whether products are recyclable in a given community is dictated by the

market for the material and if the cost of collection and transportation make sense for the businesses involved.

If you have any questions about which items are recyclable locally, just check with your garbage collection service—their employees are always happy to talk trash!

The most effective way to expand the number of items that are accepted for recycling in our community is to ask for and buy products made with recycled content.

Close the loop.

**Q.** What about the number that's inside the little arrow symbol on plastic containers? If my garbage company says they recycle #2 bottles, then isn't everything that has a 2 inside the arrows also recyclable?

**A.** Again, unfortunately, no. The number shown is the base resin type of plastic used in that container. This labeling system was developed by the plastic industry years ago to help recyclers identify different resin types.

However, since then, manufacturers have invented many more ways to manipulate plastics into new shapes, and the number alone is not an indicator of whether the item is recyclable. During manufacturing, how they

form the resin changes the plastic. Just like a glass bottle is recyclable but window glass is not, a #1 PETE bottle is recyclable, but a #1 PETE bakery tray is not.

**Q.** Do I remove the lids from plastic bottles before I recycle them, or not? I've seen it both ways.

**A.** Yes, please remove the lids from your bottles, jars, tubs and jugs before recycling. Lids are not accepted in most curbside recycling and they are not accepted at the Florence Transfer Station.

Typically the lids are a different plastic resin type, or a different resin preparation, than the container itself, meaning they likely are not recyclable in the same way.

In Florence, we are fortunate that plastic caps are one of the items accepted at the self-service recycling kiosk in the lobby at City Hall, 250 Highway 101, Florence.

Accepted lids at the kiosk include those that twist on with a threaded neck (like shampoo, water, soda, milk, laundry detergent, or pill bottles), and flip-top caps like those commonly used on ketchup bottles.

Please do not include margarine container-type lids, coffee cup lids, or caps with metal parts.

Those all go in the trash.

**Note:** The next Master Recycler class in Florence runs Jan. 13 through March 10, 2017, at LCC, every Friday, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The class is free in exchange for volunteer service. Pick up applications at the Florence transfer station or online at [LaneCounty.org/MasterRecyclers](http://LaneCounty.org/MasterRecyclers).

Contact Oregon Pacific Bank for more information at 541-997-7121.

*Florence Master Recyclers (MR) are part of the Lane County Master Recycler Program, a service of the county's Public Works Waste Management Division since 2002. The mission of the MR program is to bridge the gap between awareness and action by motivating people to reduce solid waste at home, work and play. This monthly column, written for The Siuslaw News, answers commonly asked recycling questions. For more recycling information, visit [www.ci.florence.or.us/building/recycling](http://www.ci.florence.or.us/building/recycling) or [www.lanecounty.org/Departments/PW/WMD/Recycle](http://www.lanecounty.org/Departments/PW/WMD/Recycle) or follow Master Recyclers of Florence on Facebook.*

## Logo design contest underway for 2017 Rhododendron Festival

The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce has announced the 110th Rhododendron Festival logo contest.

The Chamber has named the U.S. Coast Guard Station Siuslaw River in Florence as Grand Marshal for the 110th Rhododendron Festival Parade on May 21, 2017.

"This is the station's 100th anniversary of service to our area. They are such an important, even vital, part of our community," said Bettina Hannigan, executive director for the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce. "We want to honor the men and women assigned to Florence, and their

many contributions to the community."

Hannigan explained it was one of many reasons the Chamber chose to recognize them with one of the highest honors it can give by making them the Grand Marshal and the centerpiece of the 110th celebration.

"And as such, we are integrating the Coast Guard's official motto 'Semper Paratus,' or 'Always Ready,' into our festival's theme," said Hannigan. "This year's theme will be 'Always Ready to Rhody!'"

Professional and amateur graphic designers of all ages and from across the state are

invited to submit logo designs by emailing them to [events@florencechamber.com](mailto:events@florencechamber.com) or by uploading it at [www.florencechamber.com](http://www.florencechamber.com) by Monday, Oct. 17, at 5 p.m. for consideration.

The winning design will be printed on official festival T-shirts, commemorative pins, banners, advertisements and print guides.

The grand prize winner will receive a cash prize of \$250, a framed festival poster, two complimentary festival T-shirts and two tickets to the carnival.

They will also earn mention in community wide publicity, online posts at [www.florencechamber.com](http://www.florencechamber.com), and press releases related to the festival.

"We're looking for fun, original designs that capture the energy of the festival and celebrating our community," said Jenna Bartlett, Chamber board president.

A full list of rules is available

at [www.florencechamber.com](http://www.florencechamber.com).

Logos must incorporate the Rhododendron flower, a graphic element representing Florence, and the text: "Always Ready to Rhody," "110th" and "Rhododendron Festival."

Designs may incorporate up to five colors.

A panel of judges will determine the grand prize winner, which will be announced Friday, Oct. 21.

Artists may create multiple designs for consideration, but must submit each design separately.

Companies may participate and will receive a business level chamber membership with a bonus category package if their design is chosen.

Self-employed graphic artists or amateur designers can choose the cash prize or sponsorship package.

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