

# **From Garbage to Stuff: How We Recycle Plastics**

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## **Abstract**

Is that recycling bin the springboard to giving material a new life or is it simply a blue wastebasket? What about surplus materials from industrial processes? Do they find their way out the back door to the landfill? This presentation discusses the four critical steps in recycling-- collection, separation, reprocessing and remanufacture-- and how they relate to plastics. The technology, the cost and the efficacy of the processes all matter. And the operative word, plastics, really is plural. Presentation includes a primer in the basic kinds of plastics, how they differ and how they're used in common articles, especially packaging. The presenter brings a few common articles for demonstrations, and promises not to recycle an old quote from The Graduate.