

August 24th, 2009 10:09am

## **EVER GREEN: Law to ban trashing plastic bottles starting in October**

by [Stacie Greene Hidek](#)



Starting October 1, plastic bottles will be among the [items banned from North Carolina landfills](#). Motor oil filters and wooden pallets will also be banned.

Enforcement will happen largely at disposal facilities such as landfills and transfer stations, according to the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources. It would be next to impossible to keep watch on every individual's trash, so it will become the responsibility of the trash collectors to weed out the bulk of banned items from the trash.

This adds another impetus for those looking for more motivation to recycle. If the collectors have to invest a lot of time and resources in sorting trash from recyclables, collection fees would likely go up. Get used to recycling now and keep trash prices low! (The logic sort of follows.)

According to [state statistics](#), every 17.3 seconds, North Carolinians throw away enough plastic bottles to reach the height of the Bank of America Building in Charlotte, while at the same time, North Carolina and the Southeast are home to plastic plants eager for material to make new products.

Specifically banned from landfills are “Recyclable rigid plastic containers ... that have a neck smaller than the body of the container, and that accept a screw top, snap cap, or other closure. The prohibition on disposal of recyclable rigid plastic containers in landfills does not apply to rigid plastic containers that are intended for use in the sale or distribution of motor oil.”

Wooden pallets will still be accepted at landfills dedicated to construction waste.

As noted in [a recent post](#), Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties all accept common plastic bottles for recycling:

[New Hanover County](#) recycling centers and curbside pickup from the [city of Wilmington](#) take any plastic container labeled with Nos. 1-7. The numbers are usually found on the bottom of the container.

[Brunswick County](#) recycling centers accept plastic containers with Nos. 1-6.

**Pender County** accepts plastic milk jugs labeled HDPE 2 and plastic soda bottles labeled PETE 1 at its Rocky Point, Hampstead and Burgaw Convenience Centers. I still need official confirmation on exactly what Topsail Beach means when it says it accepts “all recyclables,” but what I have so far suggests you follow the Pender County recycling rules.

You can find more information on establishing a recycling program and take an online pledge to recycle from the [state Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance](#).