



# THE RECYCLER

SUMMER 2008

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## Attention Recyclers: GSI Can Now Accept More Plastics!

This past June, WM Recycle America, the contracted operators of the Larimer County Recycle center, along with County officials came to terms to begin accepting additional plastics as recyclable materials. Shortly there after, a meeting that included area haulers outlined the preparation guidelines and paved the way for all area haulers to begin accepting these materials.

In the past, only type #1 and #2 narrow-necked bottles and jugs were allowed. Area haulers are limited to accepting only the materials allowed by the local recycling center. GSI has long been awaiting this change and is now allowed to accept plastics type #3 thru #7 in addition to the traditional types #1 and #2. How do you know what kind it is? Most are marked on the bottom of the container with a recycle symbol surrounding the number of the type of plastic. Please see the list below for exact specifics.

As you can see, now most plastic containers are accepted. However, there are still some restrictions. No containers over 2 1/2 gallons will be accepted and all plastics should be clean of any food debris. Also, please note the items listed as Unacceptable Plastics. It is critical for the success of our recycling efforts to follow these guidelines. Even a little contamination could result in the refusal of a load. This could result in all materials in the load being sent to the landfill as trash.



What will happen to the plastics? Types #1 and #2 will still be handled domestically, as they have been in the past. The materials other than narrow-necked bottles and jars will be shipped to China and remanufactured into other household items, possibly toys and lawn furniture.

Please visit our website homepage to download an updated recycle guide that includes the additional plastic items and all materials accepted through our curbside recycling program. [www.GallegosSanitation.com](http://www.GallegosSanitation.com)

### ACCEPTABLE PLASTIC RECYCLABLES

- Narrow-necked containers, #1 and #2; caps removed
- Any container stamped #3 through #7 (except those listed under "Unacceptable Plastics" below)
- Wide-mouth containers stamped #1 through #7 (e.g., butter/cottage cheese tubs, etc.); snap-on lids are okay
- Yogurt containers stamped #1 through #7; snap-on lids are okay
- Clear clamshells (e.g., sandwich or cookie containers from the deli or bakery), stamped #1 through #7
- Personal care/prescription bottles stamped #1 through #7
- Pails stamped #1 through #7; snap-on lids are okay
- Flower and garden pots stamped #1 through #7
- #7 Nalgene bottles

### UNACCEPTABLE PLASTIC RECYCLABLES

- Frozen entrée microwave trays
- Food trays or party platters even if stamped with #1-#7
- Film (e.g., shrink wrap, Saran wrap, etc.)
- Plastic bags
- Automotive chemical containers including motor oil and anti-freeze bottles
- Pesticide containers
- Styrofoam containers
- #5, #6, and #7 compostable bottles or cups (these will be marked "compostable" by the manufacturer)

This list was provided by the City of Fort Collins at [http://www.fcgov.com/recycling/pdf/plastics\\_recycling\\_2008-0613.pdf](http://www.fcgov.com/recycling/pdf/plastics_recycling_2008-0613.pdf)

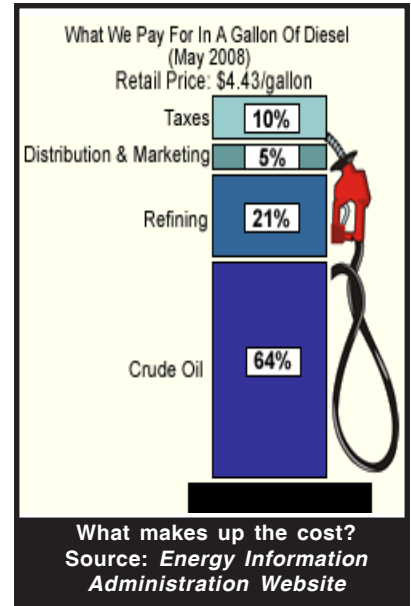
## Diesel Fuel Prices and Surcharges

This year has been an unprecedented year for instability in fuel markets around the world. The sky-rocketing cost of fuel is affecting every American and every business in one form or another. Transportation and the costs associated with it affect everything we buy, from groceries to waste disposal.

The industry has had to endure nearly a 100% increase over the last few years, and there is no end in sight. We are seeing a record number of trucking companies hanging up the keys, either by selling to larger companies or through bankruptcy.

GSI is doing all we can to minimize our fuel costs. We continue to consolidate routes and work to operate at hours when traffic is at a minimum. We are working toward maximum route efficiency through mapping and GPS tracking, while minimizing unproductive vehicle idling time. We have invested in low-sulfur diesel emissions vehicles that are not only better for the environment, but also more fuel efficient. We are even investigating other fuel options including Natural Gas for future fleet expansion.

Despite all our efforts, it has again become necessary for us to include a small fuel surcharge to subsidize our unexpected fuel cost increases. Our past rate increase included a small cushion for a fuel market increase. GSI could not have anticipated that the price of fuel would increase as much as it has to date. As a part of that increase, our initial budgeted fuel expense was factored in late 2007 at \$3.55/gallon. As of late June, diesel fuel has risen to an average of \$4.67/gallon. It is imperative that we make this adjustment in order to continue to service our customers.



As a part of your most recent service statement, you will find a small Temporary Fuel Surcharge to help cover the unexpected costs we have incurred. This fee is in no way a method for profiting from the current fuel market situation. Thank you for your understanding in this matter. We are hopeful that fuel markets will stabilize and that the use of a surcharge will no longer be necessary. Thanks again for your continued support of our locally-owned business.

## HOLIDAY ALERT!

Area Landfills are closed every year on the following holidays:  
**New Years Day - Memorial Day - Independence Day - Labor Day - Thanksgiving Day - Christmas Day**

For **2008**, if your pickup day falls ON or AFTER the following holiday **during the regular work week**, your normal pickup will be **delayed by one day**:

<b>Independence Day</b>	Friday, July 4 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Labor Day</b>	Monday, September 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	Thursday, November 27 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	Thursday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>
<b>New Year's Day</b>	Thursday, January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2009

Visit our website for more information about holiday scheduling



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Visit us @ [www.GallegosSanitation.com](http://www.GallegosSanitation.com)

## Plastic Recycling Statistics

What type of impact does recycling all your plastic containers have on the environment? What happens with it? Check out some of the facts below:

- Plastic bags and other plastic garbage thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1,000,000 sea creatures every year!
- Americans throw away 25,000,000 plastic beverage bottles every hour!
- Recycling plastic saves twice as much energy as burning it in an incinerator.
- Americans throw away 25,000,000,000 styrofoam coffee cups every year.
- About 7% of a landfill's contents are some type of plastic.
- As few as 25 plastic bottles can be recycled into a new fleece jacket!
- Americans buy an estimated 28 billion single-serving (1 liter or less) plastic water bottles each year. More than eight out of ten end up in a landfill or incinerator.

Sources include the website [Recycling Rules!](http://www.RecyclingRules!), Container Recycling Institute and <http://www.devon.gov.uk>