

THE HPWBANA NEWS

Lettuce Recycle!

by Dena Houston

THE PLASTIC BAG CONUNDRUM!



Plastic bags cause some of the biggest problems in the recycling world. Many plastic bags are marked “recyclable”; that makes people think they can be placed in any recycling cart. In fact, plastic bags can **ONLY** go to a special plastic bag collection bin. These collection bins are found at most grocery stores (see photo).

Plastic bags can **NOT** go into the blue curbside collection cart. Plastic bags get caught in the machinery at the recycling facility and their removal is costly.

Plastic bags can **NOT** go into the green curbside compost collection cart; they do not compost. **ONLY COMPOSTABLE**

BAGS can go into the green carts.

Most plastic bags can go into the plastic and film collection bins at the grocery stores. Following is a list of what can go into these bins:

- Clean and dry zip lock bags
- Plastic cereal box liners
- Air pillows for shipping (deflate)
- Bubble wrap
- Shopping bags
- Bread bags
- Produce bags (remove labels)
- Newspaper bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Product wrap on cases of water bottles, paper towels, etc.
- Plastic shipping envelopes (remove labels)

There are some plastics that cannot go into these bins because they are treated with special polymers. These polymers help keep

food fresh or allow the plastic to hold more weight. This treatment prevents the plastic from being recycled. The following plastics can **NOT** go into grocery store collection bins:

- frozen food plastic bags
- plastic bags for soil, fertilizer and compost
- Prewashed salad mix bags
- Candy bar wrappers
- Chip bags
- Six-pack rings

Here is the website for plastic bag collection:

<https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/>

CELLOPHANE AND FOOD-CONTAMINATED PLASTIC CONUNDRUM!

At this time, there is no way to recycle cellophane – UGH! So many things come packaged in cellophane or what seems like cellophane – pasta is one good example.

HOW DO YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CELLOPHANE AND RECYCLABLE PLASTIC? Cellophane makes a crinkling noise and is usually transparent. It must go into the trash cart. Here is an idea - **BUY PASTA IN BOXES RATHER THAN BAGS.**

Plastic that has food product on it cannot be recycled. For example, hot dog plastic wrappers, bags with shredded or packaged cheese, and plastic that comes wrapped around hams or turkeys must all be placed in the trash carts.

MEET THE AUTHOR OF LETTUCE RECYCLE

I was honored by the City’s Austin Resource Recovery Department with an article about me and about my recycling efforts. I am including the link so my readers can learn a little more about my passion for recycling. <http://austintexas.gov/blog/block-leader-profile-dena-houston>

SIMPLE RECYCLING UPDATE

Since Simple Recycling began a year ago in Austin, 24,400 families have participated and 500,000 pounds of reusable material have been kept out of our landfill. To receive additional green bags or if your green bag is not picked up on your collection day, please call 866-835-5068.

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Highland Park West Balcones Area

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HWPBANA is bordered on the north by 2222, on the south by 35th St., on the west by Mt. Bonnell Rd., and on the east by MoPac and by Bull Creek Rd. between Hancock Dr. and 45th St. Mail your membership dues to HPWBANA, P.O. Box 26101, Austin, Texas 78755

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(Continued from Cover)

QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS AND THE ANSWERS:

WHEN WILL CURBSIDE COMPOST COLLECTION COME TO ME? On October 2, 2017, the second phase of curbside compost collection began. All residents who receive City recycling service will receive curbside compost collection by 2020.

IF I DON'T KNOW IF SOMETHING CAN BE PUT INTO THE BLUE OR GREEN RECYCLING COLLECTION BINS, SHOULD I THROW IT IN ANYWAY AND LET IT BE SORTED BY THE CITY? This is a great question and the answer is NO! If you are unsure about whether or not something can go into either of these bins, put the items into your trash cart. It is very costly to everyone when the wrong things go into our recycling and composting bins. **IF YOU ARE UNSURE, THROW IT AWAY.** You are welcome to ask me about what can and cannot be recycled by emailing recycling@hpwbana.org

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>

Stay tuned for future tips that will include creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to: recycling@hpwbana.org



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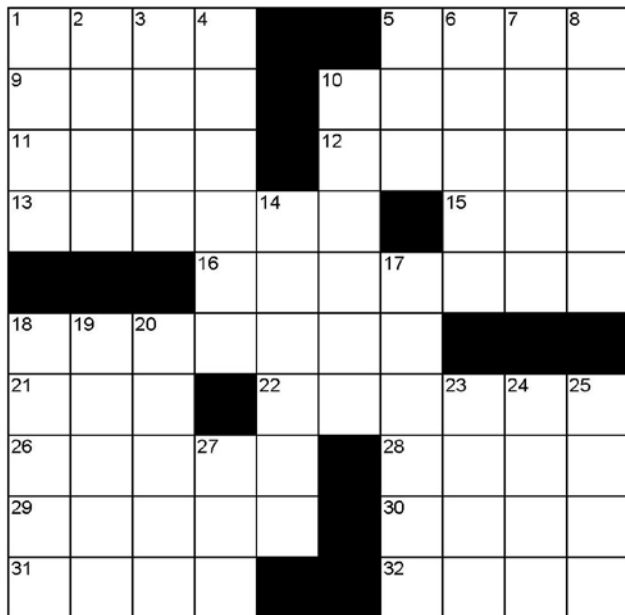
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Highland Park West Balcones Area

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. Chances of winning
5. Association (abbr.)
9. Rise (2 wds.)
10. Horse-like animal
11. Eye
12. Foreign
13. Substitute
15. What a nurse gives
16. Heavy
18. Luau guitar
21. Moved quickly
22. Despot
26. Filth
28. Water (Spanish)
29. Devourer
30. Quieted
31. Brood
32. Glen

DOWN

1. Stare at
2. One who gets things done
3. Fees
4. Spread out on the couch
5. Entire
6. Quoth
7. Melt ore
8. Girl detective Drew
10. Idly
14. ___-totter
17. President Ford
18. Goads
19. Gold weight
20. Marry
23. Accent mark
24. Void
25. Leggy
27. Kitten's cry

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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Recluse spiders

Recluse spiders are shy and, as their name suggests, do not like being out in the open. They are about the size of a quarter, with a body that is 1/2 inch long. They can be light brown, dark brown or greyish in color. They have no spines on their legs and usually have a uniform body color. Recluse spiders are known for their characteristic violin or fiddle-shaped marking on the "back" (a.k.a. cephalothorax...the front part of the spider). The real distinguishing feature is an eye pattern of three pairs of eyes arranged in a semicircle on the front of the cephalothorax.

Outside homes, recluse spiders can be found in garages or sheds, firewood piles, or piles of stored materials such as lumber, bricks, or rocks. Inside the home, these spiders are found in bedrooms, closets, bathrooms, under furniture, behind baseboards, in attics, or in cracks and crevices. They are most active at night when hunting for food.

People are typically bitten by accidentally rolling over onto a spider while sleeping or trapping a spider next to skin when putting on clothing where the spider is hiding. Recluse spiders have a cytotoxin that breaks down tissue in the bite area. Several hours after being bitten a blister forms at the bite site that may grow in size as tissue breaks down from injected venom. Infected tissue eventually sloughs off, leaving an open wound that takes a while to heal. More serious symptoms may also occur such as chills, fever, fatigue, joint pain, or nausea. If you experience problems

after being bitten by a spider, then seek medical attention immediately.

To avoid spider bites, try some (or all) of the following:

- Use sticky taps to capture spiders
- Remove bed skirts from beds (these make it easy for spiders to crawl into the bed)
- Don't leave clothes or blankets on the floor; shake out blankets and clothing before using
- When storing items, either use sealed plastic containers/ bags or tape boxes on all seams to keep spiders out
- Wear leather gloves when cleaning in undisturbed closets, attics, garages, or the yard
- Keep stacked, stored items away from the home. Do not store firewood against the house and only bring in firewood to immediately place on a fire.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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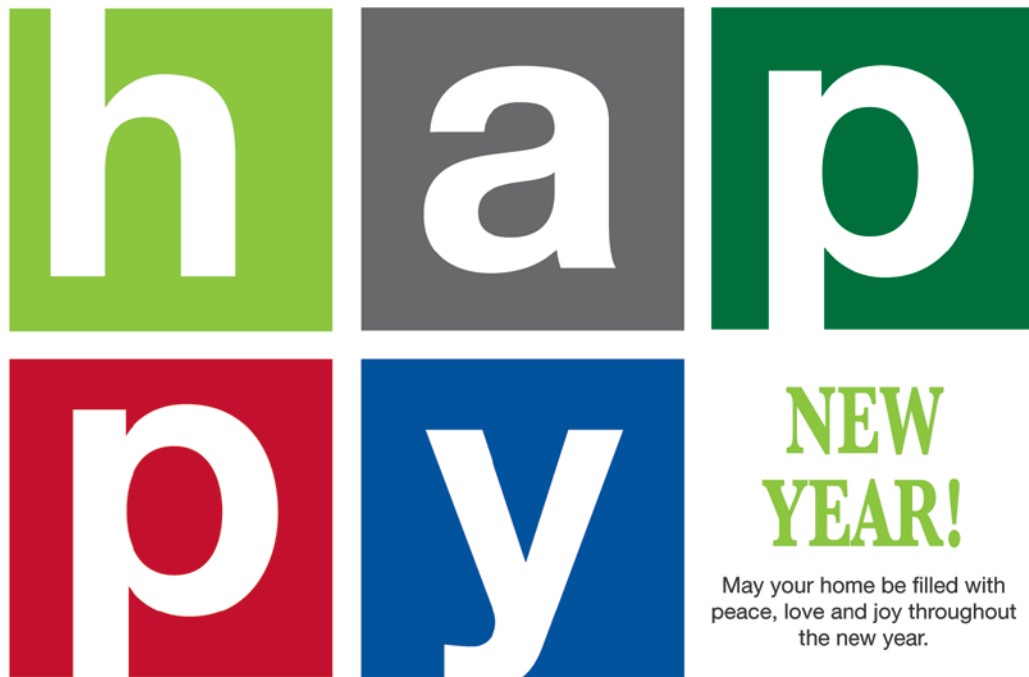


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