



Riverlution Sorting Standard Operating Procedure

At the Richmond Community Garden drop-off station, the community are able to drop off plastic tops and lids that can not be recycled through the council system. However, not all tops and lids can be used in our precious plastic project.

The Richmond Community Garden's goal for the plastic tops and lids is to create plant pots made from the shredded tops and lids.

Due to the high temperatures of the machinery, plastic types No. 2 and 5 are able to be melted down. Their rigid structure makes them the safest and least harmful plastics to melt. Other plastics produce greater harmful fumes.

The accepted plastics are:


High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) No. 2; and
Polypropylene (PP) No. 5

If the plastic lids and tops have stickers on them, please remove them. These labels are unable to go through the hot machinery. When plastics melt the molecules spread out, however, this is not the case

for paper. The stickers will cause issues when producing the plant pots.

Many tops and lids come with a small ring that detaches below the lid. We are unable to accept these as when they detach from the top or lid there is no indication of the plastic type. As we can not be sure that these plastic rings are No.2 and 5.

The table below is a great visual to provide information and further understanding of what we are able to accept.

Image	What and why?	Where we put the top or lid
	<p>These are examples of plastic tops and lids that have the number 6 (green top) and number 4 (white lid) on it. We are not able to shred either of them.</p>	<p>These tops and lids can only go into the red rubbish bins.</p>



This green top is an example of what we accept for our precious plastic project. The number 5 is in a recycle symbol.

Bottle tops and lids like this example are able to be used in our project.



These plastic lids both have paper based stickers on them. These get caught in the shredder and cannot be melted down with the plastics.

If you can remove all of the stickers and they are No.2 or No.5 then we accept these tops and lids.



Sometimes they come off super easy, other times you have to use hot water to remove the glue.

However, if you cannot remove the sticker these go in the red rubbish bins.



An example of a sticker that comes cleanly off and leaves no glue or paper residue.

Lids and tops that are sticker free can be used in our precious plastic project.



Tops and lids that are visibly dirty like this image cannot be used.

We wash all the tops and lids before they go into the shredder. Dirt and mold like this only come off with scrubbing.

If you are willing to clean the dirty tops and lids we are more than happy to take them. If not they can only go into the red rubbish bins.



We also are not able to accept any tops and lids with foam or soft plastic liners. These are very difficult to remove as they have been glued down. These plastics have different melting points to HDPE and PP and would cause burning and contamination in our

Any top or lids with plastic lining must go into the red rubbish bins.



products.



These plastic rings cannot be used in our project as we cannot be certain what type of lid and top they come from.

These can only go into the red rubbish bins.



People sometimes put the seal from the milk bottle in the lid which cannot be melted down.

If you remove the seal from the lids we are able to shred and melt down the lids.



These lids from Tetra Pak cartons cannot be used in our project. They are not made from No.2 or 5 plastics.

These can only go into the red rubbish bins.