

## DPS Environmental Myth Busters—#3



**Myth: only plastics with these types of symbols printed on them can be recycled.**

*[Co-mingled recycling is coming soon to all of Parliament House—in the meantime our Mythbuster debunks this myth to improve recycling at home!]*

To help identify different types of plastics, manufacturers stamp a Plastics Identification Code on their products. This code is a number inside a triangle with chasing arrows. These codes serve only to identify the product, not to indicate that the product can be recycled.

**In the ACT, all rigid plastic containers can be placed in the recycling bin.**

In addition to plastic bottles (eg drink, detergent or shampoo bottles), all types of plastic containers can be recycled in the ACT, including:

- (a) yoghurt containers;
- (b) takeaway containers;
- (c) strawberry punnets; and
- (d) lids from takeaway coffees.

**How do you know what is rigid plastic? Does it pass the scrunch test?**

If the plastic can be easily scrunched into a ball in your hand then it is not recyclable, including;

- (a) chip packets;
- (b) cling wrap; and
- (c) plastic bags.

If it cannot be easily scrunched then it should go in the co-mingled recycling bin.

A good example of the scrunch test is a Tim Tam packet: the outer wrapping can easily be scrunched so cannot be recycled, while the biscuit tray is more rigid and CAN be recycled.

Plastic containers need to be emptied of contents or food scraps, but do not need to be rinsed or cleaned.

Keep an eye out for the new voluntary co-mingled recycling scheme being rolled out from 4 February 2008. For more information contact Clare Lonergan (extn 5173 or [clare.lonergan@aph.gov.au](mailto:clare.lonergan@aph.gov.au)).