

**POST-CONSUMER WASTE: A MATERIAL THAT DOES NOT INVOLVE THE PRODUCTION OF A NEW MATERIAL FROM IT**

**Recycling plants take our post consumer recyclable plastics and make new safe substances to create new market products.**

**Most tops/caps/lids cannot be recycled/reclaimed because they are chemically hazardous. They are harder than most containers and if they were to be recycled together, the lids would contaminate the new substance being reprocessed.**

**Lids are of a different consistency as other recyclable plastics and tend to jam the processing equipment.**

**Plastics get bundled and if lids are on containers they may explode during the process and cause hazardous situations for the workers.**

**If you leave your lid on the container and toss it in your recycle bin, your entire container will most likely go straight to the landfill. Labor is too expensive to have lids removed.**

**Metal lids, though not always preferred to recycle, do not contaminate new substance being created but they do jam the machines though. Avoid recycling loose metal lids and keep them attached to can.**

**Some plants in the U.S. will take your lids if they are saved separately and even better if they are sorted by sizes.**

**How to use less lids? Buying larger containers and less single serving bottles would make an enormous difference in helping to reduce what goes to the landfills.**

**Landfills not only gobble up valuable land but also emit methane gas, a major contributor to the greenhouse effect.**

**How to use less lids? If you like water, try to filter tap water and pour into a re-usable bottle. Think about all the tops that you will avoid throwing to the landfill.**

**Develop a Sense of Responsibility: Trash doesn't just magically disappear. The carbon footprint you leave behind depends on your choices.**

**Develop a Sense of Responsibility: Educating the family and leading by example is a good start.**

**Develop a Sense of Responsibility: Being creative and re-using materials to make new things is a good choice.**

**The good news: Recycling in Mecklenburg improves every year. Just 10 years ago, the county dumped 2-tons of garbage into the landfill each week. 10-yrs. later we are almost down to 1!**

**Thank you to the following family & friends who contributed their post-consumer waste  
These lids don't stop here...they will continue on a creative journey.**

**Alberni Family  
Amy Day  
Annette Cossentine  
Brittany Wrenn  
Chae Journell-Klain  
David Sica  
Donna Sandoe  
Jamie Kay & Karen Heroy  
Julie Kuhstoss  
Lenore Cuyler  
Lynda Ferren  
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Murphy Family  
Pamela Goode  
Paulo & Pilar Moraes  
Stacy Toton  
Tonya Ball**

**Please contribute your lids to this piece/project instead of to the landfill.**