

HOW A BOTTLE IS RECYCLED

GOOD JOB! You tossed that plastic bottle into the recycling bin rather than straight into the trash. But do you know what will happen to that bottle now?



COLLECTION

- 1 Bottles and other recyclable materials are picked up from homes, schools, and businesses and taken to a recycling facility.

NEXT APPLICATIONS

- 5 The flakes can be spun into a very fine, threadlike material in a process similar to how cotton candy is made. Companies use those "threads" to make a wide variety of items, including carpets, clothing, or filling for jackets and quilts. Depending on the type of plastic, they can also be made into new (well, sort of new!) plastic bottles.

SORTING

- 2 Bottles and containers are sorted based on what they're made of and sometimes what color they are. The items then go through a machine that shreds them.

4.43
pounds

Amount of trash the average person produces in a single day



34.1%

Percentage of trash that's recycled



FLAKING

- 4 The melted plastic is processed into flakes, which can be made into a wide variety of plastic products.

MELTING

- 3 The shreds are washed to remove any impurities, pieces of labels or leftover contents. They are then dried and melted.