


Tips on Recycling RISO's Ink Tubes

Reference #659
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Here are some helpful tips to find your local recycling services for recycling your used ink tubes:

1. **Get to know your plastic.** Many plastic products have been labeled with one of the seven codes indicating the type of material they are made from. Plastics are stamped with a symbol code: a single digit ranging from 1 to 7 surrounded by a triangle of arrows. This symbol can be found on the bottom of plastic containers. Here is how RISO's ink bottles are labeled:

- Duplicator ink tubes are marked as  #5 or Polypropylene (PP)
- For HC ink bottles, a combination of two plastics resins is used: #2, or High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) and Ethylene-Vinyl Alcohol Copolymer (EVOH). Since mixture of two resins is used, this type of plastic bottles is identified as code #7 or "Other."

2. **Find out which plastic bottles are accepted for recycling in your area.**

What can and cannot be recycled can sometimes be confusing, especially with plastics, as different types of plastic require different processing to be reformulated and re-used as raw material. Some municipalities accept all types of plastic for recycling, while others only accept certain bottles and containers with certain numbers stamped on their bottoms. If you are not sure which ones are accepted, you can find out through your local Department of Sanitation or Department of Public Works. **Not every recycling facility accepts the #5 or #7 plastics that RISO uses in its ink cartridges, especially if there is any ink residue in the tube.**

3. **Find out what kind of program your community has for recycling plastics.** You can learn about recycling programs in your area by visiting [Earth 911](#). Also, [AmericanChemistry](#) offers a recycled plastic market database to help you search for specific recycling companies in your community.

If you already have a contract with some kind of waste management company for pick-up service, you may want to contact them to see if they provide plastic recycling services and if they accept #5 or #7 plastics.

4. **Other useful information to obtain.** Depending on where you live, recycling may not be available at all in your areas. There are recycling

companies and brokers serving nationwide that may accept your used ink bottles for recycling. If so, here is the general information you may want to obtain before deciding to recycle through a recycling company or broker:

- What type of plastic do they accept?
- What locations do they serve?
- What kind of recycling service do they offer? Do they offer pick-up service or drop-off service only?
- Any minimum quantity requirements?
- Any bailing requirement before collection?
- Any charges for recycling service?

5. If you cannot find a local source for recycling, RISO ink tubes can be recycled through Agri-Plas, Inc.

RISO, Inc. has made an agreement with Agri-Plas, Inc. to recycle RISO's used ink tubes at their facility in Oregon. Agri-Plas will act as RISO's central recycling company to accept used ink tubes.

Here are the instructions on how to recycle your used ink tubes to Agri-Plas:

1. Please make sure the ink tube is completely empty of ink.
2. Make sure to secure each ink tube nozzle with the original cap to prevent from leakage during transportation. You can also cover the nozzle with a piece of plastic and secure with a rubber band.
3. Only packaging material allowed to use is bubble wrap. Please do not use any other packaging materials such as foam or other kinds of cushioning.
4. There is no limit to the size of the packaging or the quantity of the ink tubes you put in one package.
5. **Recycling Fee:** Agri-Plas will recycle duplicator ink tubes free. For HC ink containers, there will be a flat fee, \$3.00 per package. Again, there is no limit to the number of ink tubes/containers you pack into one package.
6. **Payment:** Please send a check payable to Agri-Plas, Inc. Make sure to enclose the check in an envelope and ship along with your package. If the sender requires a receipt, please include a self-addressed envelope with postage and Agri-Plas will send a receipt in the mail.
7. **Shipping address:** Ship all the packages to:
Agri-Plas, Inc., 5016 Waconda Road, Brooks, OR 97305
8. **Contact information:** If you have questions, you may contact Agri-Plas directly at (503) 390-2381.