

**Think Outside the Trash:
Car Seat Recycling**



April 3, 2016







**Shrinking the waste stream
Energy from car seat waste
Restoration of car seat materials**


**Introduction:
Car Seat Recycling**
Safe Kids Salt Lake County Coalition
May Romo, Safe Kids Coordinator




Did you know???



If every child in the Salt Lake Valley had *only one* car seat or booster, and they all got taken to the landfill at the same time, the weight of all those car seats would equal 88 elephants!!!




= 352 tons!



"It is almost impossible to account for all the car seats being taken to the landfill as there is no official tracking system. Almost 9% of the 1.1 million people in Salt Lake County being under the age of 5, there are a tremendous amount of car seats that may end up in landfills across the county with possibly a select few that actually end up recycled by those determined to recycle car seats and willing to deconstruct them."

- Ashlee Yoder,
Recycling Coordinator SL County


Car Seat Manufacturer Facts



Evenflo Company, Inc.

- Car seat plastics take 100-1,000 years to decompose.
- Average 10-20 lbs. car seat is 80% plastic
- By weight 85% plastic, 5% metal, 15% foam, pad, cloth
- Polypropylene plastic (shell of the car seat) is recyclable
- ABS plastic (used in handles, recline levers, etc) is more difficult to recycle
- Some seats have metal, some have none


Car Seat Manufacturer Facts




Graco Children's Products Inc.

- All manufacturers use a form of polypropylene (Recycle Symbol #5) for shells and for majority of other large components
- Plastics used for smaller plastic components typically fall under Recycle Symbol #7 (Other – difficult to recycle)
- Steels can be separated out based on their melt temperatures.

Car Seat Facts



- Car seats expire according to manufacturers instructions
- Car seat plastics can become brittle like glass and may shatter during impact
- Used car seats are not safe due to unknown history



Expired, recalled and unusable car seats



Recycling Process





Drop-off sheds are garden sheds purchased at a home improvement store; the door faces the back and has a combination lock, the cutout window is covered with pond liner to make it easy to toss in car seats. Shed fits about 90-100 car seats

Recycling Process




Car seats are collected at car seat checkup events and at partnering agencies

Recycle: Expired Un-useable car seats & bike helmets
Drop off Shed Locations

<p>Salt Lake City Salt Lake Valley Transfer Station 502 West 3300 South</p> <p>Murray Murray Fire Station #84 163 East 5900 South</p> <p>South Jordan Trans-Jordan Landfill 10873 South Bacchus Highway (U-111)</p> <p>West Valley City Public Works Facility 2805 South 3400 West Hrs. Mon.-Thurs. 7am-6pm</p>	<p>South Salt Lake South Main Clinic 3690 South Main St.</p> <p>Herriman Herriman Fire Station 5916 West 13300 South</p> <p>Riverton 12891 South Redwood Road Head Start Building</p> <p>Morgan Pro Polymers, Inc. 375 East 400 North Morgan, Utah 84050</p>
---	--

BUCKLE UP

For more information, and updated locations visit:
njny.utahhealth.org ~ msosmo@skc.org / 785-468-3880

Recycling Process




Car seats are dropped off and collected for processing at the recycling plant

Recycling Process



After car seats are broken down to the plastic shell, they are ground into plastic flakes called regrind using a granulator

Recycling Process



Regrind flake

Recycling Process



1 bale = 560 lbs. of plastic which equals 70 CAR SEATS!

Regrind flake is boxed for shipping

Regrind flake being shipped

Recycling Process



The regrind flake is compressed and molded into other plastic products such as plastic flower pots, plastic hangers, buckets and various pipes

Padding and fabric are used for bedding at local animal shelters or can be burned for energy

Reusing Materials



- Car seat fabric and harnesses are repurposed by local moms



Car seat harness "Buddy Bag"



Recycled car seat harness




Recycled car seat fabric



Recycled car seat harness

Questions?



May Romo
Safe Kids/Injury Program Coordinator
Salt Lake County Health Department
mromo@slco.org
385-468-3880
