

## Episode 5 Waste a minute - PPE Disposal

**Alison:** Hi there and thanks for joining us. In the first episode we explained how the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a marked rise in the contamination of the silver recycling bins. We asked residents to return to their pre-lockdown good recycling habits and only place the BIG 5 in the recycling bin. Paper, Cardboard, Soft Plastics, Glass and Aluminium.

However we have another waste issue that is on the rise as a direct result of the pandemic and that is PPE – the Personal Protective Equipment that is increasingly littering our streets. So today we are going to talk about how to dispose of PPE safely. Over to you Lisa!

**Lisa:** Thanks Alison. I have here a typical disposable face mask. When you remove your mask, take care not to touch the inside of your face covering by removing it using the straps, then put it in a litter or waste bin. Afterwards, wash your hands thoroughly or use hand sanitizer.

**PPE CANNOT BE RECYCLED.** If you need to throw away used face coverings or PPE such as gloves, dispose of them in your 'black bag' waste bin at home or at work, or a litter bin if you are outside. If there is no litter bin, take your PPE home with you to dispose of them. But what about if you are Self Isolating Alison?

**Alison:** Good point Lise, yes if you are self isolating, dispose of any face coverings or PPE you, or members of your household use by double bagging them and storing them for 72 hours before putting them in a 'black bag' waste bin. Lise.

**Lisa:** Yes, if we can't be bothered to bin our PPE, it's a Pretty Poor Effort isn't it? Ha! 'Pretty Poor Effort'! PPE? (Alison Groans) And it is really important to prevent the spread of the virus. So Please Protect Everyone and Bin your PPE! Ha! 'Please Protect Everyone'! PPE? (Alison Groans again)!

**Alison:** Yeah I get it Lise! So remember: PLEASE PROTECT EVERYONE AND BIN YOUR PPE. Thanks for listening!