

PLASTIC RECYCLING CHART

RECYCLE LOCALITY SYMBOL	 PETE	 HDPE	 PVC	 LDPE	 PP	 PS	 OTHER	RECYCLE LOCALITY SYMBOL
NAME	POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE	HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE	VINYL OR PVC	LOW DENSITY POLYETHYLENE	POLYPROPYLENE	POLYSTYRENE	MISCELLANEOUS	NAME
DESCRIPTION	PET plastic is the most common for single-use bottled beverages, because it is inexpensive, lightweight and easy to recycle. It poses low risk of leaching breakdown products. Recycling rates remain relatively low (around 20%), though the market is in high demand by manufacturers.	HDPE is a versatile plastic with many uses, especially for packaging. It carries low risk of leaching and is readily recyclable into many goods.	PVC is tough and weathers well, so it is commonly used for piping, siding and similar applications. PVC contains chlorine, so its manufacture can release highly dangerous dioxins. If you must cook with PVC, don't let the plastic touch food. Also never burn PVC, because it releases toxins.	LDPE is a flexible plastic with many applications. Historically it has not been accepted through most American curbside recycling programs, but more and more communities are starting to accept it.	Polypropylene has a high melting point, and so is often chosen for containers that must accept hot liquid. It is gradually becoming more accepted by recyclers.	Poly styrene can be made into rigid or foam products — in the latter case it is popularly known as the trade name Styrofoam. Evidence suggests polystyrene can leach potential toxins into food. The material was long on environmentalists' lists for dispersing widely across the landscape, and for being notoriously difficult to recycle. Most places still don't accept it, though it is gradually gaining traction.	A wide variety of plastic items that don't fit into the previous categories are lumped into number 7. A few are even made from plastic polymers and are compostable. Polycarbonate is number 7, and in the hard plastic that has parents worried these days, after studies have shown it can leach potential hormone disruptors.	DESCRIPTION
FOUND IN PRODUCTS	Soft drink, water and beer bottles; mouthwash bottles; peanut butter containers; salad dressing and vegetable oil containers; ovenable food trays.	Milk jugs, juice bottles, bleach, detergent and household cleaner bottles; shampoo bottles; some trash and shopping bags; monofilament bottles; butter and yogurt tubs; cereal box liners.	Window cleaner and detergent bottles; shampoo bottles; cooking oil bottles; clear food packaging; wine jacketing; medical equipment; siding; windows; piping.	Squeezable bottles; bread, frozen food, dry cleaning and shopping bags; tote bags; clothing; furniture; carpet.	Some yogurt containers; syrup bottles; ketchup bottles; caps; straws; medicine bottles.	Disposable plates and cups; meat trays; egg cartons; carry-out containers; aspirin bottles; compact disc cases.	Three- and five-gallon water bottles; bullet-proof materials; sunglasses; CDs; iPod and computer cases; signs and displays; certain food containers; nylon.	FOUND IN PRODUCTS
RECYCLED INTO	Polar fleece; fiber; tote bags; furniture; carpets; paneling; vinyl; (occasionally) new containers.	Laundry detergent bottles; oil bottles; paint; recycling containers; floor tile; drainage pipe; lumber; benches; playgrounds; plastic tables; decks.	Decks; paneling; mudflaps; roadway gutters; flooring; cutties; speed bumps; mats.	Trash can liners and cans; compost bins; shipping envelopes; paneling; lumber; landscaping tiles; floor tile.	Sign lights; battery cables; brooms; brushes; automobile cases; for surfboards; landscape borders; barbecue grills; valves; hoses; pallets; traps.	Insulation; light switch plates; egg cartons; vents; rulers; foam packing; carry-out containers.	Plastic lumber; custom-made products.	RECYCLED INTO