








PLASTIC RECYCLING CHART



RECYCLE LOCALLY? SYMBOL	1 PETE	2 HDPE	X 3 PVC	4 LDPE	5 PP	6 PS	7 OTHER	RECYCLE LOCALLY? SYMBOL
NAME	POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE	HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE	VINYL OR PVC	LOW DENSITY POLYETHYLENE	POLYPROPYLENE	POLYSTYRENE	MISCELLANEOUS	NAME
DESCRIPTION	<p>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 material is in high demand by remanufacturers.</p> 	<p>HDPE is a versatile plastic with many uses, especially for packaging. It carries low risk of leaching and is readily recyclable into many goods.</p> 	<p>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.</p> 	<p>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.</p> 	<p>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.</p> 	<p>Polystyrene can be made into rigid or foam products -- in the latter case it is popularly known as the trademark Styrofoam. Evidence suggests polystyrene can leach potential toxins into foods. The material was long on environmentalists' hit 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.</p> 	<p>A wide variety of plastic resins that don't fit into the previous categories are lumped into number 7. A few are even made from plants (polyactide) and are compostable. Polycarbonate is number 7, and is the hard plastic that has parents worried these days, after studies have shown it can leach potential hormone disruptors.</p> 	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; motor oil bottles; butter and yogurt tubs; cereal box liners	Window cleaner and detergent bottles, shampoo bottles, cooking oil bottles, clear food packaging, wire 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, DVDs, iPod and computer cases, signs and displays, certain food containers, nylon	FOUND IN PRODUCTS
RECYCLED INTO	Polar fleece, fiber, tote bags, furniture, carpet, paneling, straps, (occasionally) new containers	Laundry detergent bottles, oil bottles, pens, recycling containers, floor tile, drainage pipe, lumber, benches, doghouses, picnic tables, fencing	Decks, paneling, mudflaps, roadway gutters, flooring, cables, speed bumps, mats	Trash can liners and cans, compost bins, shipping envelopes, paneling, lumber, landscaping ties, floor tile	Signal lights, battery cables, brooms, brushes, auto battery cases, ice scrapers, landscape borders, bicycle racks, rakes, bins, pallets, trays	Insulation, light switch plates, egg cartons, vents, rulers, foam packing, carry-out containers	Plastic lumber, custom-made products	RECYCLED INTO