

# Plastics: What does it all mean?



You know you need to recycle your plastics. Your intentions are good. And if you're confused by the recycling symbols, you're not alone. Did you know that it's important to keep certain types of plastics together - and other kinds apart? A raised number (1 through 7) in a triangle on the bottom of most plastic containers tells you what type of plastic it is and if recycled properly what it can be turned into.

## Plastic Recycling Chart



1. **(PET)** Polyethylene Terephthalate includes beverage bottles, frozen food boil-in-the-bag pouches and microwave food trays. PET makes up about 7% of the plastics stream.

Recycled to make: carpet, furniture, new containers, fleece, etc.



2. **(HDPE)** High Density Polyethylene includes milk jugs, trash bags, detergent bottles, bleach bottles and aspirin bottles. HDPE makes up about 31% of plastics stream.

Recycled to make: detergent bottles, fencing, floor tiles, pens, etc.



3. **(PVC)** Polyvinyl Chlorine includes cooking oil bottles and packaging around meat. PVC makes up about 5% of plastics stream.

Recycled to make: cables, mudflaps, paneling, roadway gutters, etc.



4. **(LDPE)** Low Density Polyethylene includes grocery store produce bags, bread bags, food wrap and mustard squeeze bottles LDPE makes up about 33% of the plastics stream.

Recycled to make: envelopes, floor tiles, lumbar, trash-can liners, etc.



5. **(PP)** Polypropylene includes yogurt containers, shampoo bottles, straws, syrup bottles and margarine tubs. PP makes up about 9% of the plastics stream.

Recycled to make: battery cables, brooms, ice scrapers, rakes, etc.



6. **(PS)** Polystyrene. Plastic foam (better known by trade name Styrofoam). Includes hot beverage cups, fast food clamshell containers, egg cartons, and meat trays. PS makes up about 11% of plastics stream.

Recycles to make: foam packaging, insulation, light switches, rulers, etc.



7. **(OTHER)** All other plastic resins or mixes of those above in same product. Includes 3 to 5 gallon water jugs, nylon and some food containers. These plastics make up about 4% of plastics stream

Recycled to make: custom-made products.