

UNDERSTANDING PLASTIC RECYCLING SYMBOLS



POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE

Clear, lightweight, and commonly used for single-use bottles.

FOUND IN:

- Water Bottles
- Soda Bottles
- Condiment Bottles

HOW TO RECYCLE:

Widely recycled through most curbside recycle programs. Can be recycled into polyester fibers for clothing, and carpeting.



HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE

Sturdy, opaque plastics used for consumer packaging

FOUND IN:

- Detergent Bottles
- Milk Jugs
- Cleaner Bottles

HOW TO RECYCLE:

Widely recycled through most curbside recycle programs. Can be recycled into new bottles, plastic lumber, and bins.



POLYVINYL CHLORIDE

Cheap, durable plastics commonly used for pipes and window frames

FOUND IN:

- Children's Toys
- PVC Pipes
- Shower Curtains

HOW TO RECYCLE:

Rarely recycled due to challenges in recycling and potential health risks. Contact local waste facilities for recycling options.



LOW DENSITY POLYETHYLENE

Thin, flexible plastics with a variety of applications

FOUND IN:

- Plastic Bags
- Plastic Films
- Squeeze Bottles

HOW TO RECYCLE:

Some recycling programs accept LDPE, but it varies by location. Can be recycled into new plastic bags and composite lumber.

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POLYPROPYLENE

Heat resistant, durable plastics for food containers and packaging

FOUND IN:	HOW TO RECYCLE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dairy Containers • Medicine Bottles • Kitchenware 	<p>Widely recycled through most curbside recycle programs. Can be recycled into automotive parts, storage containers, and fibers.</p>



POLYSTYRENE

Lightweight, foam plastics, as known as Styrofoam

FOUND IN:	HOW TO RECYCLE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg Cartons • Meat Trays • Packaging Peanuts 	<p>Limited recycling options due to challenges in processing and environmental concerns. Contact local waste facilities for recycling options.</p>



MISCELLANEOUS

All other plastics not categorized in the other six numbers

FOUND IN:	HOW TO RECYCLE:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDs & DVDs • Lenses • Electronics 	<p>Recycling options for mixed plastics may vary widely. Contact local waste facilities for recycling options.</p>

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE RECYCLING



Check Local Guidelines

Recycling programs vary by location. Follow guidelines from your local recycling facilities.



Empty + Rinse

Clean containers before recycling to prevent contamination.



Remove Caps + Labels

Caps and labels may be made of different materials and should be removed before recycling.



Reduce + Reuse

Whenever possible, reduce plastic use and opt for reusable alternatives.