

GUIDE

TO

PLASTIC

NUMBERS

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Number 1 Plastics

PET or PETE (polyethylene terephthalate)

Found in: Soft drinks, water and beer bottles, mouthwash bottles, peanut butter containers, salad dressing and vegetable oil containers, and ovenable food trays.

Recycling: Picked up by most recycling programs.

Recycled into: Polar fleece, fiber, tote bags, furniture, carpet, paneling, straps, and new containers.

Number 2 Plastics

HDPE (High Density Polyethylene)

Found in: Milk jugs, juice bottles, bleach, detergent and household cleaner bottles, shampoo bottles, some trash and shopping bags, motor oil bottles, butter and yogurt tubs, and cereal box liners.

Recycling: Picked up by most recycling programs although some only allow containers with necks.

Recycled into: Laundry detergent bottles, oil bottles, pens, recycling containers, floor tile, drainage pipe, lumber, benches, doghouses, picnic tables, and fencing.



Number 3 Plastics

V or PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)



Found in: Window cleaner and detergent bottles, shampoo bottles, cooking oil bottles, clear food packaging, wire jacketing, medical equipment, siding, windows, and piping.

Recycling: Rarely recycled, can be accepted by some plastic lumber makers.

Recycled into: Decks, paneling, mudflaps, roadway gutters, flooring, cables, speed bumps, and mats.

Number 4 Plastics

LDPE (Low Density Polyethylene)

Found in: Squeezable bottles, bread, frozen food, dry cleaning and shopping bags, tote bags, clothing, furniture, and carpet.

Recycling: LDPE is not often recycled through curbside programs but can be returned to many stores for recycling.

Recycled into: Trash can liners and cans, compost bins, shipping envelopes, paneling, lumber, landscaping ties, and floor tile.



Number 5 Plastics

PP (Polypropylene)



Found in: Some yogurt containers, syrup bottles, ketchup bottles, caps, straws, and medicine bottles.

Recycling: Some curbside programs accept number 5 plastics.

Recycled into: Signal lights, battery cables, brooms, brushes, auto battery cases, ice scrapers, landscape borders, bicycle racks, rakes, bins, pallets, and trays.



Number 6 Plastics

PS (Polystyrene)

Found in: Disposable plates and cups, meat trays, egg cartons, carry-out containers, aspirin bottles, and compact disc cases.

Recycling: Some curbside programs accept number 6 plastics.

Recycled into: Insulation, light switch plates, egg cartons, vents, rulers, foam packing, and carry-out containers.

Number 7 Plastics

Miscellaneous



Found in: Three- and five-gallon water bottles, 'bullet-proof' materials, sunglasses, DVD's, iPod and computer cases, signs and displays, certain food containers and nylon.

Recycling: Traditionally not recycled materials but some curbside programs now take them.

Recycled into: Plastic lumber and custom made products.