








Types of Plastics

ID Code	Description	Typical Use	Recycling
	<b>Polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE or polyester)</b>	<p>Bottles (water, soft drink, juice, beer, wine, mouthwash, salad dressing), peanut butter/jam jars, oven-ready and microwaveable meal trays, detergent and cleaner containers. Also used in liquid crystal displays, film for capacitors, insulation for wire and insulating tapes, and as a common finish for wood products such as guitars, pianos and vehicle/yacht interiors.</p> <p>PET fabric (polyester) is commonly used in textiles (fabric and clothing), padding and insulation (for pillows, comforters, upholstery), carpet, and mouldings. Also for tyre reinforcements, conveyor belts, safety belts, coated fabrics and tarpaulins.</p>	<p>About 29% (PET6). Recycled material downcycled into polyester fibre for fleece clothing, tote bags, strapping. Note: "Downcycling" means that the recycled material is of lower quality than the original PET, and can only be made into progressively lower quality products until it can no longer be recycled and becomes landfill waste which is most likely landfilled.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Avoid</b></p>
	<b>High density polyethylene (HDPE)</b>	<p>Plastic bags (grocery), opaque milk, water, and juice containers, bleach, detergent and shampoo bottles, garbage bags, dishes, yogurt and margarine tubs, cereal box liners, some medicine bottles. Also used in Tyvek insulation, PEX piping, plastic/wood composites.</p>	<p>About 29% (HDPE4). Recycled material made into bottles for non-food items like shampoo, laundry detergent, motor oil; plastic lumber and furniture, piping, recycling bins, fencing, floor tiles, buckets, crates, flower pots, garden edging, film and sheeting.</p> <p><b>Relatively Safe</b></p>
	<b>Polyvinyl chloride (V or Vinyl or PVC)</b>	<p>Soft PVC (softened with plasticizers) used in toys, clear food (e.g., take-out) and non-food packaging (e.g., blister wrap, cling wrap), squeeze bottles, shampoo bottles, mouthwash bottles, cooking oil and peanut butter jars, detergent and window cleaner bottles, loose-leaf binders, shower curtains, blood bags and medical tubing, "pleather" clothing, Naugahyde upholstery, wire and cable insulation, carpet backing and flooring. Rigid PVC used for blister packs and clamshell packaging, credit cards, piping (e.g., for plumbing), vinyl siding, window frames, fencing, decking, and other construction materials.</p>	<p>Very low (PVC12). Rarely recycled because it is difficult to do so on an industrial scale. It should not be recycled because it contaminates the recycling stream. Recycled PVC can become packaging, binders, decking, panelling, insulation, mud flaps, film and sheet, flooring, garden hoses.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Avoid</b></p>
	<b>Low density polyethylene (LDPE)</b>	<p>Mostly for film applications like bags (grocery, dry cleaning, bread, frozen food bags, newspapers, garbage), plastic wraps; coatings for paper milk cartons and hot &amp; cold beverage cups; some squeezable bottles (honey, mustard), food storage containers, container lids. Also used for wire and cable covering.</p>	<p>Low (LDPE3). Difficult to recycle. Recycled material can be made into compost bins, panelling, plastic lumber.</p> <p><b>Relatively Safe</b></p>

	<p>Polypropylene (PP)</p>	<p>Food containers (ketchup, yogurt, cottage cheese, margarine, syrup, take-out), medicine containers, straws, bottle caps, Britta filters, Rubbermaid and other opaque plastic containers, including baby bottles. Other uses include disposable diaper and sanitary pad liners, thermal vests, appliance parts and numerous car parts (bumpers, carpets, fixtures).</p>	<p>Low, because often pigmented or mixed with other resins, therefore difficult to sort (PP3). Recycled material made into brooms, brushes, bins pallets, auto battery cases, flower pots. <b>Relatively Safe</b></p>
	<p>Polystyrene (PS)</p>	<p>EPS: Styrofoam food containers, egg cartons, disposable cups and bowls, take-out food containers, deli food plates, packaging, packing peanuts, bike helmets. Harder clear/opaque PS: disposable cutlery &amp; razors, compact disc &amp; dvd cases. High impact PS: hangers, smoke detector housing, licence plate frames, medicine bottles, test tubes, petri dishes, model assembly kits.</p>	<p>Very low, because difficult to recycle (PS5). Recycled material made into packaging and thermal insulation.  <b>Recommendation: Avoid</b></p>
	<p>Other (O) - all other plastics Polycarbonate (PC)</p>	<p>Baby bottles, sippy cups, water bottles, three and five gallon large water storage containers, metal food can liners, juice and ketchup containers, oven-baking bags, carbonless paper receipts. Also used in custom packaging, eye glass lenses, epoxy resins, dental sealants, compact discs, DVDs, Blu-ray discs, lab equipment, gears, snowboards, car parts, housing for cell phones, computers and power tools.</p>	<p>Very low (PC). Not all municipalities include polycarbonate as readily acceptable for their recycling programs. Recycled PC may be used to make plastic lumber.  <b>Recommendation: Avoid</b></p>

Source: Life without plastics .com