

# PLASTICS INFORMATION

## PLASTIC CODING SYSTEM

CODE	PETE	HDPE	PVC	LDPE	PP	PS	OTHER
NAME	Polyethylene Terephthalate	High Density Polyethylene	Polyvinyl Chloride	Low Density Polyethylene	Polypropylene	Polystyrene	Other
QUALITIES	Clear or coloured, tough; good gas and moisture barrier. Bottles have a raised dot on the base.	Unpigmented are translucent, stiff, good air barrier. Well suited to products with short shelf lives, such as milk. Pigmented are opaque, with good resistance to chemicals. Both don't crack when bent, slightly waxy.	Clear, colourless, with white creases. Bottles have seam on base. Excellent resistance to chemicals and good to weather.	Tough, flexible, transparent. Smooth, soft to the touch.	Transparent, clear or opaque, smooth, semi-rigid. Excellent chemical resistance; strong; high melting point.	Two forms: Rigid is hard and brittle. Foam is light, insulates against heat, cold, movement. Stiff but flexible, snaps when bent.	Made with resins other than the six above or more than one resin.
USES	Pop, water and mouthwash bottles; peanut butter and salad dressing jars; plastic film to cover food on trays and in microwave ovens.	Bottles for milk, juice, water, laundry products and household chemicals; margarine and yogurt tubs; cereal box liners.	Clear food packaging; shampoo bottles (from industrial sources only).	Plastic film, including heat-sealing, flexible lids; squeezable bottles; bread, frozen food and grocery bags.	Ketchup bottles; yogurt and margarine tubs; medicine bottles.	CD cases; food-service applications; grocery-store meat trays, plant trays; egg cartons; Aspirin bottles, cups and plates.	Large reusable water bottles; some citrus juice and ketchup bottles.
RECYCLED	Fibre for carpets; insulation for coats and sleeping bags; polyester clothes; tote bags; non-food bottles.	Liquid detergent containers, drainage pipe, oil bottles, recycling bins, benches, pens, dog houses, vitamin bottles, floor tiles, picnic tables, lumber, mailbox posts, fencing.	Packaging, binders, decking, panelling, roadway gutters, mud flaps, film and sheet, flooring, cables, speed bumps, mats.	Shipping envelopes, garbage cans and liners, floor tile, furniture, film and sheet, compost bins, panelling, landscape timber, lumber.	Auto battery cases, signal lights, battery cables, brooms and brushes, ice scrapers, oil funnels, landscape borders, bicycle racks, rakes, bins, pallets, trays.	Thermometers, light-switch plates, thermal insulation, egg cartons, vents, desk trays, rulers, licence-plate frames, foam packaging, carry-out containers, plant trays, mousetraps.	Custom products, plastic lumber.

### The Plastics Coding System

Plastic containers are the newest commodity to be recycled and the most difficult to understand. They are the newest because the plastic recycling industry in only a couple of decades old while the paper and metal recycling industry have been around for centuries. It's the most difficult because of the wide variety of plastics available and their incompatibilities.

In the late 80's there were over 46,000 different types of plastics with that number growing everyday as researchers discover new ways to make plastics or additives to give them new properties. For that reason the plastic industry developed a coding system that identifies which type of plastic a container may be made of.

The code consists of a number surrounded by the chasing recycling arrows (mobius loop) and letters underneath that tell recyclers and the public at a glance what kind of plastic was used to make the container. This does not ensure recyclability of the material. The majority of the plastics fall into the first six categories with the remainder classified as other. The charts above and beside illustrate the names of each type of plastic, along with its qualities, common uses, and function.



## IS YOUR PLASTIC ACCEPTABLE?

SHAPE	ACCEPTABLE	NOT ACCEPTABLE
Screw Top Container	All screw top containers marked:  <b>Except: Pesticide containers, oil containers and prescription medicine containers.</b>	All screw top containers marked:  And all unmarked containers.
Wide Mouth Tubs	All wide mouth tubs marked: 	Pails over 10 litres or any pails with handles. Food trays used for cookies, muffins, fast food, and individual pudding cups. Any microwavable trays or planters.
Plastic Film	Clean and dry plastic film marked:  <b>Except: Agricultural film, shrink wrap, any film that came into contact with food</b>	All plastic film clearly marked:  And all unmarked film.
Other		All other containers and plastic goods are not acceptable at this time

## STEPS TO RECYCLING PLASTICS

### Step 1 - Identify the Shape



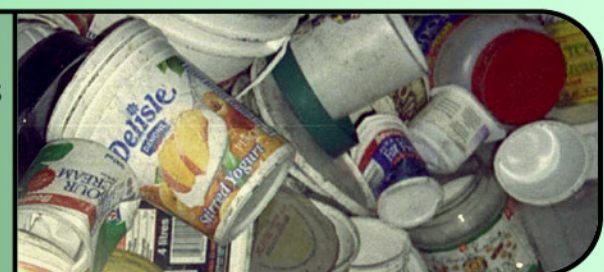
First identify whether the shape of the plastic is a screw top container, wide mouth tub, or plastic film. All other shapes are not recyclable in the program.



### Step 2 - Identify the Type



- If the plastic container has a screw top that is smaller than the container, mobius loop numbers 1, 2 & 4 are accepted.
- If the plastic container is a wide mouth tub, then any of the seven grades of plastic are accepted up to 10 litres.



### Step 3 - Prepare & Recycle



Remove caps, lids & pumps. Empty contents and rinse thoroughly. Place uncapped and empty plastic bottles in your blue box along with your other recyclables.

