

RECYCLABLE PLASTICS

cheat sheet

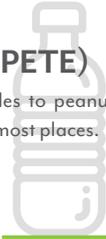
Note: While some plastics are intrinsically better for Earth than others, be sure to check your municipality's website to find out your local recycling rules and options.



PET

Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET OR PETE)

This common plastic is used in everything from water bottles to peanut butter jars to salad dressing bottles. Plastic #1 is recyclable in most places.



HDPE

High density polyethylene (HDPE)

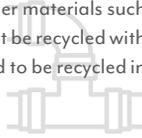
This denser plastic is used for heavy duty containers like detergent, milk jugs, and motor oil bottles. While this plastic is tougher on the environment, it is recyclable in most places.



PVC

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)

PVC, which has become synonymous with the large white pipes that can be made into 9 Square-in the Air or pounded on for an impromptu musical instrument, is a plastic that can also be found in several other materials such as toys and furnishings. While PVC can be recycled, it cannot be recycled with your traditional #1 and #2 plastics. Items with Plastic #3 need to be recycled in a designated facility.



LDPE

Low density polyethylene (LDPE)

The counterpart to #2, LDPE is the plastic most commonly found in plastic films like shrink wrap, grocery bags, or most frozen food bags. You will also find #4 in squeezable plastic containers like those for honey or mustard.

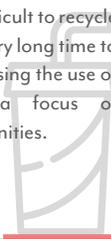
Most places accept the rigid forms of #4, but the plastic films, like in grocery bags, are only accepted in designated locations.



PP

Polypropylene (PP)

PP is used in many common materials like Tupperware, straws, and disposable coffee cups. This plastic is incredibly difficult to recycle and, like most plastics, takes a very long time to decompose, which is why decreasing the use of straws has become such a focus of environmentally-minded communities.



PS

Polystyrene (PS)

PS is used in a wide range of things, including egg cartons, packing peanuts, takeout containers, and aspirin bottles. While this plastic is incredibly convenient to make into many things, unfortunately, it is very difficult to recycle so most recycling plants do not accept it.



OTHER

Miscellaneous

This group is the leftovers that don't fit into any other category. Avoid these plastics whenever possible. They are extremely difficult to recycle and pile high in our landfills.

