

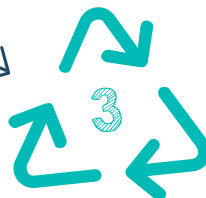


Different types of plastic

Have you ever seen this symbol before?

It's called a Resin Identification Code. These symbols made up of arrows and a number were created in 1988 to help us identify different types of plastic.

Not all plastic is made the same! The different types of plastics come with their own characteristics, either good or bad.



2 HDPE High-density Polyethylene



Examples

Milk and non-carbonated drinks bottles, food packaging, toiletry bottles.

Recyclability

Easily recyclable into new HDPE bottles or plastic lumber and furniture.

Properties

HDPE is a translucent, flexible and tough plastic, and often has a waxy feel. It is resistant to solvents with a high heat resistance with a melting point between 120 and 180 degrees Celsius. This means that it can be sterilised multiple times.

Toxicity

Does not leak any chemicals that cause health issues to animals and humans.

1 PETE Polyethylene Terephthalate



Examples

Water and soft drinks bottles, food packaging, medicine containers.

Recyclability

Easily recyclable - commonly recycled into fleece, carpets and stuffing. This could be called down-cycling to be strict.

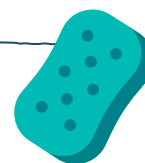
Properties

High heat resistance. High melting point of 255°. Clear and tough. Solvent resistant.

Toxicity

Does not leach chemicals to the drinks and food being stored in it. However, it may release toxic chemicals when used for a long time.

3 PVC Polyvinyl Chloride



Examples

Window and door frames, pipes, guttering, synthetic leather products.

Recyclability

Not recyclable. Can be repurposed but use by children or with food is inadvisable.

Properties

PVC is a white, brittle and durable plastic and is increasingly replacing traditional building materials. Heat distortion can start at 60 degrees Celsius with melting occurring from 100 degrees Celsius.

Toxicity

Contains high doses of toxic chemicals that can harm living things when ingested. chemicals when used for a long time.

Can you imagine any of these?

[Click here to see examples](#)