Plastic Recycling Numbers

Number	Type of Plastic	Description	Recyclability	Examples		
1 PETE	**Polyethylene Terephthalate** (PET, PETE)	• Heat-resistant and tough • Intended for single use applications • Inexpensive and lightweight • Barrier to gas and moisture	Recyclable / Not reusable	• Single-use bottled beverages • Salad dressing containers • Mouthwash bottles	• Peanut butter containers • Prepared food trays • Jelly jars	
2 HDPE	**High-Density Polyethylene** (HDPE)	• Tough and durable • One of the safest forms of plastic • Resistant to moisture and chemicals • Most commonly recycled	Recyclable / Reusable	• Milk and water jugs • Household cleaner containers • Plastic lumber	• Waste bins • Grocery bags • Cereal box liners	
3 PVC	**Polyvinyl Chloride or Vinyl** (PVC, V)	• Soft and flexible • Relatively impervious to sunlight and weather • One of the least recyclable plastics due to additives, contains numerous toxins	Not recyclable / Can be repurposed	• Food wrap • Plumbing pipes • Window frames • Flooring	• Shower curtains • Wire/cable insulation • Lawn chairs	
4 LDPE	**Low-Density Polyethylene** (LDPE)	• Tough and flexible • Considered less toxic than other plastics • Relatively safe to use	Not always recyclable / Reusable	• Dry cleaning bags • Squeeze bottles • Bread bags • Thin container lids	• Frozen food bags • Food wrap • Furniture	
5 PP	**Polypropylene** (PP)	• Tough and lightweight • Has excellent heat-resistance qualities • Serves as a barrier against moisture, grease, and chemicals	Not always recyclable / Reusable	• Bottle caps • Medicine bottles • Tupperware • Straws	• Packing tape • Some auto parts • Pails	
6 PS	**Polystyrene** (PS)	• Inexpensive • Lightweight and easily-formed plastic • Breaks up easily • May leach styrene into food products	Not commonly recyclable / Not commonly reusable	• Disposable foam cups • Carry-out containers • Egg cartons	• Cafeteria trays • Packaging foam • Disposable cutlery	
7 OTHER	**Other** (O)	• Examples: BPA, Polycarbonate, and LEXAN • Has potential for chemical leaching into food or drink products • New generation of compostable plastics are being developed to replace polycarbonates	Not standardized / Not standardized	• Baby bottles • Storage containers • 5-gallon water cooler bottles	• Headlight lenses • Safety glasses • CDs	

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