

FROM THE RECYCLING COORDINATOR



Identifying Plastics

#1-PET - Polyethylene Terephthalate

Soft drink bottles, salad dressing, peanut butter, popcorn containers

Characteristics: Stiff & transparent. Bottles cannot be manufactured with handles.

After Recycling: Carpet, twine, rope, belts, webbing, scouring pads, fence posts, sails, fiberfill for pillows, cushions, insulated outerwear

#2-HDPE - High Density Polyethylene

Milk jugs, water bottles, detergent, bleach, and other cleaning agent bottles

Characteristics: Moderately flexible to stiff, translucent or opaque and colored

After Recycling: Waterproof plastic lumber, flowerpots, drainage pipes, trash cans, traffic barriers, cones and signs

#3-PVC - Polyvinyl Chloride

Cooking oil bottles, film covering on meat packages

Characteristics: Stiff, transparent with a slightly blue or grey tint

After Recycling: Drainage, sewer and irrigation pipes, handrails, pipe fittings, downspouts

#4-LDPE - Low Density Polyethylene

Some grocery store produce bags, bread bags, food storage wrap

Characteristics: Flexible, translucent to waxy in appearance, opaque coloring is possible

After Recycling: Traffic barriers, cones and signs, speed bumps, landscape timber, irrigation pipes, plastic garbage bags

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#5-PP - Polypropylene

Yogurt containers, shampoo bottles, syrup bottles, margarine tubs

Characteristics: Stiff with a high melting point. Often used as inside layer for food packages

After Recycling: Manhole steps, video cassette casings, ice scrapers, paint buckets, lawn mower wheels, automobile battery parts

#6-PS - Polystyrene

Hot beverage cups, fast food clamshell containers, meat trays, egg cartons

Characteristics: White foam or hard and brittle; crystal clear with a shiny finish

After Recycling: Converted into pellets and used for plastic lumber, building insulation, packaging materials

#7- OTHER

Characteristics: Because of the mixed plastic content, it is usually "squeezeable"

After Recycling: Plastic lumber, traffic barriers, etc.