



Understanding Recyclable Plastics

Plastics are categorized in seven different levels. To determine what type of plastic something is made from, all you need to look for is the small triangle of arrows that make up the recycle logo on the bottom of any container. The number inside the arrows designates what level of plastic the packaging is made from. The easiest and most common plastics to recycle are made of polyethylene (PET or PETE) and are assigned the number 1. Examples include soda and water bottles, medicine containers, and many other common consumer product containers. Number 2 is reserved for high-density polyethylene plastics (HDPE). HDPE is a colored or opaque plastic usually used for laundry detergent bottles and milk jugs. Like plastic designated number 1, number 2 plastic is accepted at Parkersburg Recycling. Plastics that are numbered 3 through 7 are not currently accepted by Parkersburg due to their low rates of recyclability. As Parkersburg's recycling market expands, however, so will our collection of additional types of plastic products and chemicals.

 PET	<p>Polyethylene Terephthalate</p> <p>PET</p>	 HDPE	<p>Polyvinyl Chloride</p> <p>PVC (or Vinyl)</p>
<p>PET, a plastic resin and form of polyester, is the type of plastic labeled with the #1 code on or near the bottom of bottles and containers and is commonly used to package soft drinks, water, juice, peanut butter, salad dressings and oil, cosmetics and household cleaners. PET is a popular package for food and non-food products. Recycled polyethylene terephthalate (RPET) can be used to make many new products, including fiber for polyester carpet; fabric for T-shirts, luggage, upholstery and sweaters; fiberfill for sleeping bags and even automotive parts.</p>		<p>HDPE is the best plastic material for containing food, water, beverages, body products and chemicals. Industry has recognized HDPE as the plastic container of choice to ensure purity of its contents. Plastic milk containers and the non-clear variety of water jugs are made of High Density Polyethylene. Opaque vitamin and medicinal products are contained in HDPE containers. Laundry detergent bottles and fuel tanks in automotive vehicles are also made of HDPE. In addition, HDPE is also used to make wire and cable coverings, wood composites and extruded pipe by injection molding applications.</p>	
 LDPE	<p>Low Density Polyethylene</p> <p>LDPE</p>	 PP	<p>Polystyrene</p> <p>PS</p>
<p>Low-density polyethylene plastic bottles come in three categories that have been distinguished by shape: Boston round (round bottoms with flat bottoms), oval and cylinder bottles. Each category offers a variety of sizes with multiple-style lid closures such as flip-top, caps and tips. LDPE plastic bottles are more flexible than most, allowing them to be a good candidate for product dispensing. Additionally, this type of plastic wrap is typically used for sealing food items to keep them fresh.</p>		<p>Low density polyethylene plastic bottles in three categories that have been distinguished by shape, Boston round (round bottoms with flat bottoms), oval and cylinder bottles. Each category offers a variety of sizes with multiple-style lid closures such as flip-top, caps and tips. LDPE plastic bottles are more flexible than most allowing them to be a good candidate for product dispensing and for plastic wrap is typically used for sealing food items to keep them fresh.</p>	
 OTHER	<p>Other</p> <p>The "Other" code and its use means that the package is made with a resin other than the six types commonly used, or is made of more than one type of resin and is used in a multi-layer combination.</p>		