

THE PLASTIC IDENTIFICATION CODE

| Symbol | Type of Plastic | Properties | Common Uses | Recycled into: |
|---|--|--|--|--|
|  PET | PET Polyethylene Terephthalate | Clear, tough, solvent resistant, barrier to gas and moisture, softens at 80° | Soft drink and water bottles, salad domes, biscuit trays, salad dressing and containers | Pillow and sleeping bag filling, clothing, soft drink bottles, carpeting, building insulation |
|  HDPE | HDPE High Density Polyethylene | Hard to semi-flexible, resistant to chemicals and moisture, waxy surface, opaque, softens at 75°C, easily coloured, processed and formed | Shopping bags, freezer bags, milk bottles, ice cream containers, juice bottles, shampoo, chemical and detergent bottles, buckets, rigid agricultural pipe, crates | Recycling bins, compost bins, buckets, detergent containers, posts, fencing, pipes, plastic timber |
|  PVC | PVC Unplasticised Polyvinyl Chloride PVC-U Plasticised Polyvinyl Chloride PVC-P | Strong, tough, can be clear, can be solvent welded, softens at 80°C Flexible, clear, elastic, can be solvent welded | Cosmetic containers, electrical conduit, plumbing pipes and fittings, blister packs, wall cladding, roof sheeting, bottles Garden hose, shoe soles, cable sheathing, blood bags and tubing | Flooring, film and sheets, cables, speed bumps, packaging, binders, mud flaps and mats, new gumboots and shoes |
|  LDPE | LDPE Low density Polyethylene | Soft, flexible, waxy surface, translucent, softens at 70°C, scratches easily | Cling wrap, garbage bags, squeeze bottles, irrigation tubing, mulch film, refuse bags | Bin liners, pallet sheets |
|  PP | PP Polypropylene | Hard but still flexible, waxy surface, softens at 140°C, translucent, withstands solvents, versatile | Bottles and ice cream tubs, potato chip bags, straws, microwave dishes, kettles, garden furniture, lunch boxes, packaging tape | Pegs, bins, pipes, pallet sheets, oil funnels, car battery cases, trays |
| PS  PS-E | PS Polystyrene PS-E Expanded polystyrene | Clear, glassy, rigid, opaque, semi-tough, softens at 95°C. Affected by fat, acids and solvents, but resistant to alkalis, salt solutions. Low water absorption, when not pigmented is clear, is odour and taste free. Special types of PS are available for special applications. | CD cases, plastic cutlery, imitation glassware, low cost brittle toys, video cases Foamed polystyrene cups, takeaway clamshells, foamed meat trays, protective packaging and building and food insulation | Coat hangers, coasters, white ware components, stationary trays and accessories, picture frames, seed trays, building products |
|  OTHER PACKAGING | OTHER PACKAGING In packaging, it could be multi-layer materials e.g. PE+PP. | Includes all resins and multi-materials (e.g. laminates). Properties dependent on plastic or combination of plastics. | Automotive and appliance components, computers, electronics, cooler bottles, packaging | Plastic timber, sleepers – looks like wood, used for beach walkways, benches etc. |