








Recycling Symbols for Plastics

Symbol	What It Stands for	Containers It's Found in	How to Recycle It	Made Into
	1 Stands for PET or PETE, short for polyethylene terephthalate, the most common plastic for single use bottled beverages & more	*Bottles containing soft drinks, water, ketchup, & beer; *Bottles for mouthwash, shampoo, etc.; *Plastic jars for peanut butter, salad dressing, veggie oil, etc.	Curbside pick up, if your community offers it. Be sure to remove any caps or lids, and remove any food before recycling. Don't worry about removing labels.	Polar fleece, fiber, tote bags, furniture, carpet, paneling, straps, bottles & food containers (meeting purity standards)
	2 Stands for HDPE, short for high density polyethylene, primarily used in packaging	Milk jugs, juice bottles; bleach, detergent, shampoo, & household cleaner bottles; trash & shopping bags; motor oil bottles; butter & yogurt tubs; cereal box liners	Curbside recycling pick up (check your community recycling guidelines); do not recycle flimsy plastics like grocery bags & plastic wrap; recycle bags at grocery stores	Laundry detergent bottles, oil bottles, pens, recycling containers, floor tile, drainage pipe, lumber, benches, dog houses, picnic tables, fencing, shampoo bottles
	3 Stands for PVC or V, short for polyvinyl chloride, commonly used in piping & siding. NEVER BURN PVC because it releases toxins	Shampoo & cooking oil bottles, blister packaging, wire jacketing, siding, windows, piping	PVC & V are rarely recycled, but some plastic lumber makers will accept it. Ask if your trash pickup will accept these materials before disposing	Decks, paneling, mud-flaps, roadway gutters, flooring, cables, speed bumps, mats
	4 Stands for LDPE, short for low density polyethylene	Squeezable bottles; bags or containers for bread, frozen food, dry cleaning, & shopping bags; tote bags; furniture	LDPE isn't usually recycled through curbside programs; shopping bags can be recycled at some stores	Trash bags, cans, compost bins, shipping envelopes, paneling, lumber, landscaping ties, floor tile

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	5 Stands for PP, short for polypropylene; can handle high heat	Yogurt containers; syrup & medicine bottles, caps straws	Some curbside programs accept PP; make sure these containers have no food in them; remove & throw caps into garbage	Signal lights, battery cables, brooms, brushes, auto battery cases, ice scrapers, landscape borders, bicycle racks, rakes, bins, pallets, trays
	6 Stands for PS, short for polystyrene; commonly known as Styrofoam™, which is 98% air	Disposable plates, cups, meat trays, egg cartons, carry-out containers, aspirin bottles, CD cases	Few recycling programs accept 6-PS, but if they do, put them in a bag, remove air, & tie it up to keep foam pieces from going airborne	Insulation, light switch plates, egg cartons, vent, rulers, foam packing, carry-out containers
	7 Stands for Miscellaneous; for odds & ends plastic resins such as polycarbonate or hard plastic, PLA or polylactic acid	3 & 5 gallon water bottles; bullet-proof materials, sunglasses, DVDs, iPod & computer cases, signs & displays, certain food containers, nylon	These are rarely recycled, but check your community's recycle program to see if they have instructions pertaining to #7	Plastic lumber & custom-made products

I used information from the article, *Exactly What Every Plastic Recycling Symbol Actually Means* <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/g804/recycling-symbols-plastics-460321/> by Brian Clark Howard and Amina Lake Abdelrahman, and put it in an easier-to-read chart.