

1. Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET, PETE)



Thanks to its properties that help the clear, tough resin block gas and moisture, PET is used in soda, juice, and sports drink bottles. Mouthwash containers, peanut bar jars, and microwavable food trays are often made from this resin too. It's recycled into fleece jackets, tote bags, and comforter filling.

2. High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE)



A stiffer resin than PET, HDPE also makes up a lot of bottles, though usually ones that require chemical resistance, like detergents and bleach. Cosmetics and shampoos also often come in HDPE containers. Recycling uses include new non-food containers (so it could've been a conditioner container in its previous and current life), as well as plastic deck material.

3. Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC, Vinyl)



PVC is physically stable and chemically resistant and can be either rigid or flexible. You'll find it in diverse products from deli wrap and blood bags to window frames, pipes, and siding. Your garden hose and gutters, as well as traffic cones, could be made out of recycled PVC.

4. Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE)



Because it's tough yet flexible, LDPE is used in some flexible lids and bottles, as well as in bags for dry cleaning, produce, newspapers, bread, frozen foods, and garbage. Honey and mustard (and, presumably, honey mustard) come in LDPE containers. In a meta twist, garbage and compost cans are made from recycled LDPE.

5. Polypropylene (PP)



Yogurt, margarine, medicine, and syrup containers are all made from PP, but its high melting point makes it a popular choice for takeout, too. The recycled version is used in automotive accessories (brushes and ice scrapers), as well as garden rakes, storage bins, and shipping pallets.

6. Polystyrene (PS)



Brittle and with a low melting point, PS is made into cups, plates, bowls, plasticware, and meat trays, while its "foamed" version is used to protect furniture or electronics, and is also made into packing peanuts. Around the house, you'll find recycled PS in thermal insulation, light switch plates, vents, and rulers.

7. Other



A 7 means the package is made with a different kind of resin or a combination of the ones above. You'll see it on some three- and five-gallon water bottles.