

# Recycling Symbol Cheat Sheet



## PETE — Polyethylene Terephthalate

Most common plastic used for consumer plastics, PETE is intended for single use and is reprocessed to make new PETE bottles or polyester fiber which is used for textiles. **Products:** Soda bottles, water bottles and some food packaging.



## HDPE — High-Density Polyethylene

Considered one of the safest forms of plastic, HDPE is hardy and is reprocessed to make picnic tables, plastic lumber, waste bins and more. **Products:** Detergent containers, milk jugs, oil bottles and toys.



## PVC — Polyvinyl Chloride

PCV contains toxic materials and requires new materials for their construction, therefore, although some materials can be repurposed, you can't recycle it. **Products:** Food wrapping, cooking oil bottles, children and pet toys, garden hoses and computer cable sheathing.



## LDPE — Low-Density Polyethylene

Known as a relatively safe material, LDPE recycle programs are becoming more common in communities. It's repurposed to make plastic lumber, garbage can liners and floor tiles. **Products:** Shrink bags, dry cleaning garment bags, squeezable bottles and grocery bags.



## PP — Polypropylene

PP is known for its heat-resistance qualities and acts as a barrier against moisture and grease. Some curbside recycling programs accept the material to be repurposed for battery cases, brooms and bins. **Products:** Disposable diapers, plastic bottle tops, yogurt containers and straws.



## PS — Polystyrene

Largely recognized as an inexpensive material, PS is weak and lightweight, often repurposed for foam insulation. Although technology is available to recycle the material, most local recycling programs don't have the processing available. **Products:** Styrofoam cups and food containers, plastic cutlery and foam packaging.



## OTHER — BPA, Polycarbonate and LEXAN

Recycling protocols are not standardized in this category, as it catches all other materials not identified in the six categories. If the material is labeled with "PLA," it's recommended to be thrown in the compost bin. **Products:** Various applications including baby bottles and sippy cups, water cooler bottles and car parts.