

PLASTIC BY NUMBERS:

PLASTIC RESIN IDENTIFICATION CODE EXPLAINED

This identifies the type of plastic resin used to make the item by providing a 'Resin Identification Code'.

It is represented with a 'chasing arrows' symbol surrounding a number between 1 and 7 that defines the resin used.



POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE

Used for - Soft drink bottles, juice containers, food packaging (e.g. fruit punnets) etc.

Easy to recycle - usually in home recycling bins once cleaned.

Next Life - Once recycled it is reprocessed into new PET products.



HIGH-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE

Used for - Milk cartons, cleaning agents (e.g. shampoo bottles), yoghurt pots etc.

Easy to recycle - usually in home recycling bins once cleaned.

Next Life - Once recycled it is reprocessed into garden furniture, pipes and milk cartons.



POLYVINYL CHLORIDE

Used for - Piping, window fittings, thermal insulation, car parts etc.

Difficult to recycle - these products are not easily recycled, but can often be re-used.

Next Life - Reused and where possible reprocessed into more PVC products.



LOW-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE

Used for - Shrink wrap, food bags, shopping bags, magazine wrapping, 6-pack rings etc.

Manageable to recycle - check with your local collection service to see if they are accepting LDPE plastic items for recycling. You can often re-use these products as well.

Next Life - Reused or reprocessed into bin liners, plastic furniture and floor tiles.



POLYPROPYLENE

Used for - Food containers (e.g. margarine tubs), auto parts, microwaveable tubs etc.

Easy to recycle - very easy to re-use, can often be recycled in the kerbside recycling.

Next Life - Once recycled it is reprocessed into more food containers, clothing fibres etc.



POLYSTYRENE

Used for - Takeaway containers, protective or industrial packaging, coffee cups.

Difficult to recycle - these products are not easily recycled, however, there are a few places that will accept and recycle them - this requires research.

Next Life - If successfully recycled it is reprocessed into more packaging. any leftovers can be frozen down and saved for another day.



OTHER FORMS OF PLASTIC

Used for - Crisp packets, composites, salad packaging, baby bottles, acrylic/nylon products etc.

Very difficult to recycle - these products are not easily recycled or for re-use, they simply go in the general waste bin.

Next Life - Goes to landfill.