

A guide to types of plastic



A guide to the 7 types of plastic

Not all plastics can be recycled in every town, it comes down to the capability of each individual authority. If you are unsure what recycling symbol to use on your poly bag design, this useful guide should answer any questions that you may have!

Plastic resin codes

There are seven codes that identify the type of plastic resin used to make a product. They feature a 'chasing arrows' symbol with the 'Resin Identification Code' between one and seven.



PET/PETE

Polyethylene Terephthalate



PP

Polypropylene



HDPE

High-Density Polyethylene



PS

Polystyrene



PVC

Polyvinyl Chloride



Miscellaneous

Polycarbonate, BPA and other plastics



LDPE

Low-Density Polyethylene



The 7 categories of plastic

PET / PETE



What is it?

PET is mostly used to make single-use bottles because it is cheap, light and easy to recycle.

Where can it be recycled?

From home, work or on the go. Ensure the plastic is clean and then pop it in the recycling bin.

HDPE



What is it?

HDPE is a versatile plastic which is often used for packaging. It can easily be recycled into new items.

Where can it be recycled?

From home, work or on the go. Flimsy plastics (bags and film) can't be recycled from home, but most supermarkets have plastic bag recycling points where you can drop these off for recycling.

PVC



What is it?

PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) is a tough material so it's usually used to make reusable packaging rather than single-use packaging.

Where can it be recycled?

Unfortunately this can rarely be recycled and definitely can't be recycled from home. If possible, you should reuse it for something else, or worst-case, you will have to throw it in general waste.

LDPE



What is it?

LDPE is a flexible plastic and is the most common option for poly bags. Brands are increasingly using recycled LDPE as a more eco-friendly alternative.

Where can it be recycled?

Most councils don't collect this plastic for recycling but you can often drop this off at supermarket plastic bag recycling points, so it is worth checking your local authority site for specific details.



The 7 categories of plastic *continued...*

PP



What is it?

PP has a high melting point, so it's often used for plastic containers that will hold a hot liquid.

Where can it be recycled?

Most councils will collect this for recycling but make sure it is clean first.

PS



What is it?

PS or Polystyrene can be made into rigid or foam products and is very difficult to recycle.

Where can it be recycled?

You should either throw this in the bin or reuse it for another purpose as it can't be recycled.

Miscellaneous



What is it?

A wide variety of plastics that don't fit the other categories.

Where can it be recycled?

These can't be recycled from home and the options vary depending on the material. However, you should try to reuse the product or donate it to a charity shop - for example, sunglasses and DVDs.

We look forward to working with you

Speak to our experienced team today to find out more.

3 Focus Business Park, Focus Way,
Yeadon, Leeds LS19 7DB UK

+44 (0)113 239 1122
sales@weavabel.com

www.weavabel.com

Certified sustainability

