



How to Identify your Recyclable Plastics from your Non-recyclable Plastic Waste



In the event of Global Recycling Day, we updated ourselves on the plastics we should be recycling. For those of you struggling to get your head around the symbols, we've cracked the code! Here is our guide to identifying your recyclable plastics from your non-recyclable plastic waste.

RECYCLABLE PLASTICS



PET comes in the form of clear hard plastic and is most commonly found in clear plastic bottles so think again about throwing them in your general waste bin, as you could save them from going into landfill.

Specific PET household items include mouthwash, yoghurt pots, drinks bottles.

PET is commonly turned into textiles as polyester fabric.



HDPE can be found in stiff coloured bottles and tubs. Whether this plastic can be recycled depends from council to council, be sure to check that they take your HDPE plastics such as in Milk containers, margarine and ice cream tubs, shampoo bottles and even Plastic bottle caps. Don't forget to clean/rinse out these items before recycling :)

HDPE can be recycled into pens, non-food bottles (i.e. detergent bottles) and recycling bins.





LDPE is hard flexible plastic, as with HDPE you may need to check with your council first. LDPE plastic comes in the form of bread bags, bubble wraps, squeezable bottles and tubes and carrier bags that can be stretched- most councils don't accept carrier bags but they can be collected for recycling in some supermarkets. Items that I wouldn't have otherwise thought to recycle can be turned into bin liners.



PP is usually a hard plastic most common in takeaway boxes are a big culprit of plastic pollution, along with PP plastic straws, plastic picnicware and packing tape. Don't forget to check to see if any of these products are included in your council's recycling list.

Next time you are peckish for takeaway, check to see if you can recycle your take away box (or even better skip plastic altogether and look for paper packaged takeaway or bring your own!)

This plastic can be turned into garden tools i.e rakes and brooms, and also plastic trays and brushes.

NON-RECYCLABLE PLASTICS



PVC cannot yet be recycled, this includes household items such as Cling film, plastic outdoor furniture, pipes, table protectors etc. For these items, we recommend investing in some environmentally friendly alternatives, especially regarding cling film as a single-use plastic.



PS commonly known as Polystyrene comes in two forms a hard brittle plastic, these include CD cases, plastic cutlery and some yoghurt pots, and an expanded polystyrene, a lightweight, insulative plastic, as in foamy takeaway packaging, styrofoam, insulation and some packaging peanuts.



Other

Other plastics, a separate category for composite plastics, such as crisp wrappers, plastic-coated wrapping paper, polycarbonate containing BPA and of course bioplastics as they are biodegradable and therefore cannot be recycled.

To recap... You can even print this out and stick it on your fridge (or your bin!)

Recyclable Plastics



PETE



HDPE



LDPE



PP



V



PS



Other

Non-

Recyclable Plastics

Recyclable Plastics



WIDELY RECYCLED

PET plastic is often used for single use clear plastic bottles, clear plastic jars and some yoghurt pots....



RECYCLABLE (CHECK)

HDPE is often used for stiff bottles and tubs (often coloured) i.e Milk bottles and icecream tubs, bottle caps

...



RECYCLABLE (CHECK)

LDPE is hard but flexible plastic in the form of bread bags, bubble wrap, squeezable bottles/tubes.



RECYCLABLE (CHECK)

PP is usually used for packaging tapes, take-away tubs, straws and ketchup bottles

[sunnyviarecohub.com](https://www.sunnyviarecohub.com)



Non-Recyclable Plastics



NOT RECYCLABLE

PVC plastic can be found in cling film, toys, plastic outdoor furniture, plastic pipes and hoses and table protectors.



NOT RECYCLABLE

Polystyrene is often found in CD cases, plastic cutlery and yoghurt pots and expanded polystyrene in foamy takeaway containers and styrofoam.



NOT RECYCLABLE

Other plastics are bioplastics, composite plastics (like crisp wrappers), plastic coated wrapping paper and polycarbonate (which contains BPA).

[sunnyjarecohub.com](https://www.sunnyjarecohub.com)



x