

Recycling Codes

Those tiny recycling symbols stamped on plastics, glass, paper, metals and other materials mean a lot more than you may think.



Plastics

The recycling codes for plastics are divided into seven categories. Generally, the higher the number, the more difficult it is for the material to be recycled. The next time you see one of these symbols, use the following guide to ensure that the product is recycled or disposed of properly:



PET

Polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE): This type of plastic is very common, easy to recycle, and is accepted by most municipal recycling programs. This type of plastic is commonly found in disposable food and drink containers including: water bottles, pop bottles, prepared/frozen food containers.



HDPE

High-density polyethylene (HDPE): This type of plastic is non-transparent. It is also widely accepted in municipal recycling programs. HDPE is found in household cleaner bottles, shampoo bottles, yogurt containers and more.



V

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC): PVC is more difficult to recycle than the first two plastics mentioned above. Unfortunately, PVC is known to contain phthalates, a suspected carcinogen. This type of plastic can be found within children's toys and a variety of bottles including detergent and shampoo.



LDPE

Low-density polyethylene (LDPE): This type of plastic is soft and flexible, and can commonly be found in thin plastic bags. Slowly but surely, this type of plastic is being added as an acceptable item to recycle. Please check to make sure it's accepted locally.



PP

Polypropylene (PP): This type of plastic can be found in straws, soft-drink cups, and certain food containers. PP Plastic can be recycled, but to be safe please check to make sure it's accepted locally.



PS

Polystyrene (PS): This type of plastic is also known as styrofoam, which is commonly used in takeout containers and disposable cups. Unfortunately, PS contains styrene which is a known carcinogen. It is not commonly accepted within recycling programs.



OTHER

Other: Includes plastics not included in the previous six categories, including BPA, polycarbonate and bio-based plastics.

Glass



This recycling symbol indicates that a glass product can be recycled (but don't forget to wash it!). There are three recycling code for glass products:



GL

Mixed Glass



GL

Clear Glass



GL

Green Glass

Paper



This recycling symbol shows that the paper or cardboard has been made with at least 75% genuine waste paper, or board fiber, or a mix of both. There are three types of paper recycling codes:



PAP

Cardboard



PAP

Mixed Paper



PAP

Plain Paper

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