

# Recyclable Plastics

Recycling plastics is crucial for environmental sustainability.

Proper identification of recyclable plastics ensures they can be efficiently processed and reused.

## PLASTIC RESIN CODES:

### Unlocking the Puzzle

The Resin Identification Code assigns a number from **1 to 7** inside a triangle, each number signifying a specific type of plastic.

#### PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate)



Commonly used for beverage bottles and food containers. When you see **#1** in the recycling symbol, it signals that these items are generally recyclable and can find a new life through the recycling process.

#### HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene)



Found in milk jugs, detergent bottles, and plastic bags. **#2** indicates a plastic that is widely accepted in recycling programs. Placing items with this code in the blue bin ensures their journey through the recycling chain.

#### PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)



Used in piping, packaging, and building materials. **#3** signifies a type of plastic that is less commonly accepted in recycling programs. It's important that with these plastics extra care taken before placing in the blue bin as such items may not be suitable in all locations.

#### LDPE (Low-Density Polyethylene)



Often used in plastic bags, squeezable bottles, and some packaging. **#4** indicates a commonly recyclable plastic. Ensuring that **#4** marked items are correctly placed in the recycling stream supports the sustainability of these materials.

#### PP (Polypropylene)



Commonly found in yogurt containers, bottle caps, and some packaging. **#5** points to plastics that are generally recyclable. By recognizing this code, you contribute to efficiently recycling these items by placing them in the designated recycling container.

#### PS (Polystyrene)



Used in disposable foam products, CD cases, and packaging. **#6** marked plastics are less commonly accepted in recycling programs. Items with this code may require special processing, and their recyclability can vary by location.

#### Other



Represents a mix of plastics or a type not covered by the previous six categories, serving as a catch-all category. Items marked with **#7** may need special attention, and their recyclability can vary widely.



## EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY (EPR):

### Decoding the Language of Sustainability

After identifying the **Resin Identification Code**, check for guidance within your province to confirm which items are accepted for recycling. **Extended producer responsibility (EPR)** is put in place to manage and operate the recycling system.

For plastics producers, this includes collecting, sorting, and processing materials accordingly. Each code has its unique management method, and the producers use the codes to identify the accurate techniques needed.



## RECYCLING GUIDELINES:

### Navigating Local Variations

Adhering to local recycling guidelines is essential for efficiently processing and recycling plastics. **EPR programs** are common in every province and may have unique recycling guidelines designed to reduce stress on mechanical sorting systems and ensure only appropriate items are collected.



## PLASTIC CONTAMINATION:

### The Hidden Menace

Even recyclable plastics can become unrecyclable if food, oil, or other residues contaminate the stream. Rinsing plastic items thoroughly before recycling is **essential** to prevent disruptions in the recycling process and ensure the continued viability of plastics for reuse.