

Types of Plastics

There are a variety of ways to classify plastics.

[Plastic Scrap Recyclers](#)

Buying all Kinds of Plastic Scrap Parts, Lumps, Films, Regrind etc.

[5 Gallon](#)

See Our Low Prices on Pails, Cans Plastic, Steel, In Stock

[Ads by Goooooogle](#)

In an attempt to bring order to plastics classification for recycling purposes, the Society of the Plastics Industry (SPI) devised some voluntary codes in 1988. They are commonly called SPI codes, and the numbers within the recycling arrows refer to different types of plastic resins.

There is no federal regulation governing the types of symbols you see stamped to plastic, so you can not be certain of consistency from state to state. However, it is generally safe to assume there is some consistency.

Related Resources

- [Introduction](#)
- [Plastics & Microwaves](#)
- [Production](#)
- [Recycling Process](#)
- [Recycling Rates](#)
- [Renewable Plastics](#)
- [Recycling Center](#)



- PET (polyethylene terephthalate): plastic soft drink and water bottles, beer bottles, mouthwash bottles, salad dressing containers, boil-in food pouches, processed meat packages
- HDPE (high density polyethylene): milk bottles, detergent bottles, oil bottles, toys, plastic bags
- PVC (polyvinyl chloride): food wrap, vegetable oil bottles, blister packaging
- LDPE (low density polyethylene): bread bags, frozen food bags, squeezable bottles, fiber, tote bags, bottles, clothing, furniture, carpet, shrink-wrap, garment bags
- PP (polypropylene): margarine and yogurt containers, caps for containers, wrapping to replace cellophane
- PS (polystyrene): egg cartons, fast food trays, disposable plastic silverware
- Other: This code indicates that the item is made with a resin other than the six listed above, or a combination of different resins.

© 2002. Picture and text. Patricia A. Michaels.