

## Household

### Plastics

■ In your quest to go green, use this guide to use and sort plastic. The number, usually found with a triangle symbol on a container, indicates the type of resin used to produce the plastic. Call **1-800-CLEANUP** for recycling information in your state.



PETE

**Number 1 • PETE or PET (polyethylene terephthalate)**

IS USED IN . . . . . microwavable food trays; salad dressing, soft drink, water, and beer bottles

STATUS . . . . . hard to clean; absorbs bacteria and flavors; avoid reusing

IS RECYCLED TO MAKE . . carpet, furniture, new containers, Polar fleece



HDPE

**Number 2 • HDPE (high-density polyethylene)**

IS USED IN . . . . . household cleaner and shampoo bottles, milk jugs, yogurt tubs

STATUS . . . . . transmits no known chemicals into food

IS RECYCLED TO MAKE . . detergent bottles, fencing, floor tiles, pens



V

**Number 3 • V or PVC (vinyl)**

IS USED IN . . . . . cooking oil bottles, clear food packaging, mouthwash bottles

STATUS . . . . . is believed to contain phalates that interfere with hormonal development; avoid

IS RECYCLED TO MAKE . . cables, mudflaps, paneling, roadway gutters



LDPE

**Number 4 • LDPE (low-density polyethylene)**

IS USED IN . . . . . bread and shopping bags, carpet, clothing, furniture

STATUS . . . . . transmits no known chemicals into food

IS RECYCLED TO MAKE . . envelopes, floor tiles, lumber, trash-can liners



PP

**Number 5 • PP (polypropylene)**

IS USED IN . . . . . ketchup bottles, medicine and syrup bottles, drinking straws

STATUS . . . . . transmits no known chemicals into food

IS RECYCLED TO MAKE . . battery cables, brooms, ice scrapers, rakes



PS

**Number 6 • PS (polystyrene)**

IS USED IN . . . . . disposable cups and plates, egg cartons, take-out containers

STATUS . . . . . is believed to leach styrene, a possible human carcinogen, into food; avoid

IS RECYCLED TO MAKE . . foam packaging, insulation, light switchplates, rulers



OTHER

**Number 7 • Other (miscellaneous)**

IS USED IN . . . . . 3- and 5-gallon water jugs, nylon, some food containers

STATUS . . . . . contains bisphenol A, which has been linked to heart disease and obesity; avoid

IS RECYCLED TO MAKE . . custom-made products