



## Types of Plastics

The following table presents a summary of plastic polymer groups, their common uses, properties, and recyclability. Numerical coding (from 1-7) is typically provided on plastic items and gives information of their polymer grouping below. Recyclability is based on common recycling schemes but can vary between countries as well as regionally within countries; check local recycling guidelines for further clarification.

Symbol	Polymer	Characteristics	Common Uses	Recyclable?
<b>1 PETE</b>	Polyethylene terephthalate	Clear, strong, and lightweight	Plastic bottles (water, soft drinks, cooking oil)	Yes; widely recycled
<b>2 HDPE</b>	High-density polyethylene	Stiff and hardwearing; hard to breakdown in sunlight		
<b>3 PVC</b>	Polyvinyl chloride	Can be rigid or soft via plasticizers; used in construction, healthcare, electronics		
<b>4 LDPE</b>	Low-density polyethylene	Lightweight, low-cost, versatile; fails under mechanical and thermal stress		
<b>5 PP</b>	Polypropylene	Tough and resistant; effective barrier against water and chemicals		
<b>6 PS</b>	Polystyrene	Lightweight; structurally weak; easily dispersed		
<b>7 OTHER</b>	Other plastics (e.g., acrylic, polycarbonate, polyactic fibers)	Diverse in nature with various properties		