

plastics by number

Plastic labeling is given a number with three arrows chasing each other around to create a triangle. Sometimes you will also see letters beside the symbol to identify the type of plastic (e.g., PET, LDPE). Numbers 1-7 are recyclable to various degrees, depending on your town or city's recycling program. The safest plastics to reuse are #2, #4 and #5 (sing it... 2, 4, 5 keep yourself alive)! That means, #1, #3, #6 and #7 are best purchased in moderation and do recycle after ONE use.



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SOLUTIONS ARE IN OUR NATURE



PET (polyethylene terephthalate)

In most water and pop bottles, and some packaging. Hard to de-contaminate. Proper cleaning releases harmful chemicals. May leach carcinogens, like DEHA.

DO NOT
REUSE



HDPE (high-density polyethylene)

In milk, detergent and oil bottles, toys and plastic bags. Considered one of the safest forms of plastic.

REUSABLE



PVC (vinyl/polyvinyl chloride)

In food wraps, food oil bottles, teething rings, pet's toys and blister packaging. Produces toxins from manufacture through disposal. Avoid using for microwaving (use glass or microwave-safe crockery instead); wraps made from LDPE (#4s) are safer.

DO NOT
REUSE



LDPE (low-density polyethylene)

In shrink wraps, garment bags (from dry cleaners), squeezable bottles and plastic bags. Less toxic than other plastics.

REUSABLE



PP (polypropylene)

In bottle tops, disposable diapers, carpeting, bags and food wraps, yogurt and margarine containers. Considered one of the safest plastics.

REUSABLE



PS (polystyrene)

In plastic cutlery, foam packaging. May leach into food products.

AVOID
USE



Other (LEXAN, polycarbonate, BPA aka bisphenol A)

Usually layered or mixed plastics.
For info on BPA check here: <http://www.enviroblog.org/2008/04/cheatsheet-bisphenol-a-bpa.htm>

DO NOT
REUSE

For more information, go to www.QueenofGreen.ca.