








# THE PLASTIC IDENTIFICATION CODE

Symbol	Type of Plastic	Properties	Common Uses	Recycled into:
 <b>PET</b>	<b>PET</b> Polyethylene Terephthalate	Clear, tough, solvent resistant, barrier to gas and moisture, softens at 80°C	Soft drink and water bottles, salad domes, biscuit trays, salad dressing and containers	Pillow and sleeping bag filling, clothing, soft drink bottles, carpeting, building insulation
 <b>HDPE</b>	<b>HDPE</b> High Density Polyethylene	Hard to semi-flexible, resistant to chemicals and moisture, waxy surface, opaque, softens at 75°C, easily coloured, processed and formed	Shopping bags, freezer bags, milk bottles, ice cream containers, juice bottles, shampoo, chemical and detergent bottles, buckets, rigid agricultural pipe, crates	Recycling bins, compost bins, buckets, detergent containers, posts, fencing, pipes, plastic timber
 <b>PVC</b>	<b>PVC</b> Unplasticised Polyvinyl Chloride PVC-U Plasticised Polyvinyl Chloride PVC-P	Strong, tough, can be clear, can be solvent welded, softens at 80°C  Flexible, clear, elastic, can be solvent welded	Cosmetic containers, electrical conduit, plumbing pipes and fittings, blister packs, wall cladding, roof sheeting, bottles Garden hose, shoe soles, cable sheathing, blood bags and tubing	Flooring, film and sheets, cables, speed bumps, packaging, binders, mud flaps and mats, new gumboots and shoes
 <b>LDPE</b>	<b>LDPE</b> Low density Polyethylene	Soft, flexible, waxy surface, translucent, softens at 70°C, scratches easily	Cling wrap, garbage bags, squeeze bottles, irrigation tubing, mulch film, refuse bags	Bin liners, pallet sheets
 <b>PP</b>	<b>PP</b> Polypropylene	Hard but still flexible, waxy surface, softens at 140°C, translucent, withstands solvents, versatile	Bottles and ice cream tubs, potato chip bags, straws, microwave dishes, kettles, garden furniture, lunch boxes, packaging tape	Pegs, bins, pipes, pallet sheets, oil funnels, car battery cases, trays
<b>PS</b>  <b>PS-E</b>	<b>PS</b> Polystyrene  <b>PS-E</b> Expanded polystyrene	Clear, glassy, rigid, opaque, semi-tough, softens at 95°C. Affected by fat, acids and solvents, but resistant to alkalis, salt solutions. Low water absorption, when not pigmented is clear, is odour and taste free.  Special types of PS are available for special applications.	CD cases, plastic cutlery, imitation glassware, low cost brittle toys, video cases\ Foamed polystyrene cups, takeaway clamshells, foamed meat trays, protective packaging and building and food insulation	Coat hangers, coasters, white ware components, stationery trays and accessories, picture frames, seed trays, building products
 <b>OTHER PACKAGING</b>	<b>OTHER PACKAGING</b> In packaging, it could be multi-layer materials e.g. PE+PP.	Includes all resins and multi-materials (e.g. laminates). Properties dependent on plastic or combination of plastics.	Automotive and appliance components, computers, electronics, cooler bottles, packaging	Plastic timber, sleepers – looks like wood, used for beach walkways, benches etc.