

Below are examples of common plastic items we use every day. If they get recycled, they become repurposed products. If they get “thrown away” they remain in landfills, in oceans and as scattered litter for thousands of years.

TYPES OF PLASTICS	EXAMPLES	THEIR NEW, RECYCLED, REPURPOSED PRODUCTS
P.E.T. (polyethylene terephthalate) #1 code	Soft drink, water and beer bottles, mouthwash bottles, peanut butter containers, salad dressing and vegetable oil containers	Park benches, furniture, carpet, fleece jackets, plastic bottles and containers
H.D.P.E. (high density polyethylene) #2 code	Milk jugs, juice bottles, bleach, detergent and household cleaner bottles, shampoo bottles, some trash and shopping bags, motor oil bottles, butter and yogurt tubs, cereal box liners.	Folding tables, bottle caps, cereal box liners, water/sewer pipes, lawn chairs, garden edging
P.V.C. (polyvinyl chloride) #3 code	Window cleaner and detergent bottles, shampoo bottles, cooking oil bottles, clear food packaging, wire jacketing, medical equipment, siding, windows, piping, candy wrappers	Hotel keycards, ID badges, clothes hangers, flooring, pipes
L.D.P.E. (low density polyethylene) #4 code	Squeezable bottles, bread, frozen food, dry cleaning and shopping bags, tote bags, clothing, furniture, carpet	Decks and fencing, meat and other food packaging, machine parts
Polypropylene #5 code	Some yogurt containers, syrup bottles, ketchup bottles, caps, straws, medicine bottles, drink cups	Food containers, toothbrushes, coolers, vacuum thermos bottles
Polystyrene #6 code	Disposable plates and cups, meat trays, egg cartons and carry-out containers often with the Styrofoam brand, aspirin bottles, compact disc cases, packing material	Clothes hangers, park benches, flower pots, toys, rulers, stapler bodies, seedling containers, picture frames
Polycarbonate #7 code	CDs, DVDs, electrical and telecommunications hardware, bullet-resistant glass, safety goggles, sun glasses, eye glasses, luggage	Bicycle helmets, microwave cookware, bullet-proof windows, camera and binocular bodies
Mixed Material (recycled plastic codes 1-7)	Three- and five-gallon water bottles, 'bullet-proof' materials, sunglasses, DVDs, computer cases, signs and displays, smart phone casing	Tools, armor, nuclear reactor components



Sources:
 Earth Institute, Columbia University
 Environmental Protection Agency
 Polystyrene Packaging Council
 Preserve
 PVC Recycling Technologies
 Sony
 Stanley
 University of California, Davis

