










SYMBOL	PLASTIC NAME	RECYCABLE IN SSM?	COMMON USES	NEW PRODUCTS AFTER RECYCLING
 PETE	Polyethylene Terephthalate	Yes, widely recycled	Plastic bottles, peanut butter jars	Filling for jackets and cushions, soft drink bottles, food containers, carpets
 HDPE	High Density Polyethylene	Yes, widely recycled	Milk jugs, shampoo bottles, detergent containers, butter tubs	Flower pots, recycling bins, detergent containers, composite fencing and decking
 PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride	No, very difficult to recycle	Plumbing pipes and fittings, flooring, electrical conduit, fencing and siding	Flooring, film and sheets, mud flaps and floor mats, irrigation pipes
 LDPE	Low Density Polyethylene	No, very difficult to recycle	Grocery bags, bread bags, shrink wrap, garbage bags, plastic film	Trash can liners, pallet sheeting, floor tiles
 PP	Polypropylene	No, very difficult to recycle	Bottle lids, dishware, lunch boxes, drinking straws, ice cream tubs	Bins, ice scrapers, yard rakes, car battery containers
 PS	Polystyrene	No, very difficult to recycle	Disposable plates and drinking cups, protective packaging, take-out food containers	Trim moldings, picture frames, foam insulation
 OTHER	Other	No, very difficult to recycle	Automotive parts, appliance parts, electronics, water jugs	Not usually recycled since it is a mix of different plastics

What is recycling contamination, and why does it matter?

Improper sorting of recyclables and food residue are the most common examples of contamination. If unsuitable non-recyclable items contaminate the sorting bins, it can become hazardous for recycling workers, and destructive for sorting equipment. Simple steps such as removing bottle caps or lids from your coffee cups can help prevent contamination. When contamination of recycling becomes too great, the items are rejected and are sent to the municipal landfill. With proper rinsing and sorting of recyclables, you can insure these materials stay out of the landfill.