

Plastic Material Types & Uses



Material Type	Recycling Symbol	Description	Common Usages
PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate)		The most common thermoplastic polymer resin of the polyester family. This material is water-resistant, virtually shatterproof, and highly recyclable, making it a great alternative to glass due to its durable yet flexible construction.	- Homemade sauces - Salad dressings - Honey - Juices - Teas - Bulk candies - Spices 
rPET (Recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate)		rPET is obtained from recycled PET bottles or other post-consumer sources, reducing the need for virgin plastic production.	- Homemade juices - Teas - Smoothies 
HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene)		A very resistant resin made with long unbranched polymer chains, making it much stronger and thicker than PET. Also, it is relatively hard and resistant to impact. It can withstand temperatures ranging from -110 to 165°F without being affected. It is commonly used for milk jugs and cleaning product bottles.	- Milks - Homemade lemonades and iced teas - Cleaning products - Protein powders - Drink mixes - Supplements 
MDPE (Medium-Density Polyethylene)		Characterized by medium-density molecules, giving the resin a durable design stronger than LDPE but more flexible than HDPE. Because it is reasonably translucent, flexible, and durable, this type of plastic is frequently used for squeeze bottles and other types of packaging.	- Squeeze bottles - Six-pack beverage rings - Honey - Homemade sauces 
Polypropylene		A synthetic resin that is a polymer of propylene. This material is hard and sturdy, resistant to most oils, chemicals, and solvents, and can withstand high temperatures.	Homemade personal care products, such as creams, lotions, and scrubs 
Polystyrene		A synthetic resin which is a polymer of styrene that can be solid or foamed. General-purpose polystyrene is clear, hard, and brittle.	- Homemade personal care products, such as creams, lotions, and scrubs - Medications - Vitamins 