



plastics by number



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 the safest form 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 the safest plastic.

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

More details here:

<http://www-tc.pbs.org/strangedays/pdf/StrangeDaysSmartPlasticsGuide.pdf>

<http://www.plasticfreebottles.com/pdf/Understanding-Plastic-Codes.pdf>