



plastic is a material made from petroleum capable of being molded, extruded, or cast into various shapes. There are many different kinds of plastic made from different combinations of compounds. To learn more about the plastic resin codes #1-#7 and what these plastics are recycled into, check out the chart below!

Yoda the Soda says...

If you are not sure which plastic the containers are made of, there should be a small triangle embossed on the bottom of these containers with a number in it -- a triangle with a "1" is #1 plastic, a triangle with a "2" is #2 plastic, etc. This is the resin code.

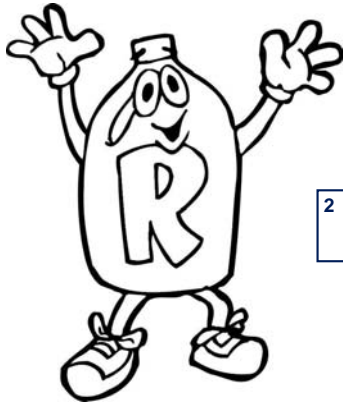
did you know...



Resin Code	Descriptions	Properties	Packaging Applications	Recycled Products
 <p>1 PETE</p>	Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET, PETE) is clear, tough, and has good gas and moisture barrier properties. Nickname: Polyester.	Clarity, strength, toughness, barrier to gas and moisture, resistance to heat.	Plastic soft drink, water, sports drink, mouthwash, catsup and salad dressing bottles. Peanut butter, pickle, jelly and jam jars. Ovenable film and ovenable prepared food trays. Strapping, and non-food containers.	Fiber, tote bags, clothing, film and sheet, food and beverage containers, carpet, strapping, fleece wear, luggage and bottles.
 <p>2 HDPE</p>	High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) is translucent, has good barrier properties and stiffness, and is well suited to packaging products with a short shelf life such as milk.	Stiffness, strength, toughness, resistance to moisture, permeability to gas, ease of processing, and ease of forming. Note: Chemical resistance makes it good for packaging house-hold and industrial chemicals such as detergents and bleach.	Milk, water, juice, cosmetic, shampoo, dish and laundry detergent bottles; yogurt and margarine tubs; cereal box liners; grocery, trash and retail bags. Note: Pigmented HDPE bottles have better stress crack resistance than unpigmented HDPE bottles.	Liquid laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner and motor oil bottles; pipe, buckets, crates, flower pots, garden edging, film and sheet, recycling bins, benches, dog houses, plastic lumber, floor tiles, picnic tables, fencing.
 <p>3 V</p>	Vinyl (Polyvinyl Chloride or PVC) has stable physical properties, excellent chemical resistance, good weatherability, and stable electrical properties. Diverse - can be used to make rigid and flexible materials.	Versatility, clarity, ease of blending, strength, toughness, resistance to grease, oil and chemicals.	Clear food and non-food packaging, medical tubing, wire and cable insulation, film and sheet, construction products such as pipes, fittings, siding, floor tiles, carpet backing and window frames.	Packaging, loose-leaf binders, decking, paneling, gutters, mud flaps, film and sheet, floor tiles and mats, resilient flooring, cassette trays, electrical boxes, cables, traffic cones, garden hose, mobile home skirting.
 <p>4 LDPE</p>	Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE) is predominately used in film applications due to its toughness, flexibility and relative transparency, and is popular for use in applications where heat sealing is necessary).	Ease of processing, strength, toughness, flexibility, ease of sealing, barrier to moisture.	Dry cleaning, bread and frozen food bags, squeezable bottles (e.g. honey, mustard). Also used to manufacture some flexible lids and bottles, and it is used in wire and cable applications.	Shipping envelopes, garbage can liners, floor tile, furniture, film and sheet, compost bins, paneling, trash cans, landscape timber, lumber.
 <p>5 PP</p>	Polypropylene (PP) is strong, has good chemical resistance, and a high melting point making it good for hot-fill liquids. It is found in flexible and rigid packaging to fibers and large molded parts for automotive and consumer products.	Strength, toughness, resistance to heat, chemicals, grease and oil, versatile, barrier to moisture.	Catsup bottles, yogurt containers and margarine tubs, medicine bottles.	Automobile battery cases, signal lights, battery cables, brooms, brushes, ice scrapers, oil funnels, bicycle racks, rakes, bins, pallets, sheeting, trays.
 <p>6 PS</p>	Polystyrene (PS) is versatile and can be rigid or foamed. General purpose PS is clear, hard and brittle. It has a relatively low melting point. Typical applications include protective packaging, containers, lids, cups, bottles and trays.	Versatility, insulation, clarity, easily formed.	Compact disc jackets, food service applications, grocery store meat trays, egg cartons, aspirin bottles, cups, plates, cutlery.	Thermometers, light switch plates, thermal insulation, egg cartons, vents, desk trays, rulers, license plate frames, foam packing, foam plates, cups, utensils.
 <p>7 OTHER</p>	Other. Use of this code indicates that the package in question is made with a resin other than the six listed above, or is made of more than one resin listed above, and used in a multi-layer combination.	Dependent on resin or combination of resins.	Three and five gallon reusable water bottles, some citrus juice and catsup bottles.	Bottles, plastic lumber applications.

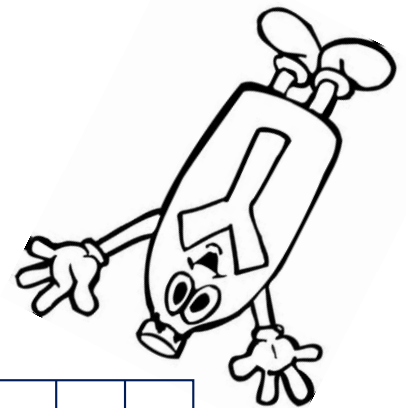
activity

Use the clues given to figure out the plastic-related words needed to fill in the corresponding blanks in the crossword puzzle.



Across

1. In order to properly sort plastic containers, you have to know the ____.
2. One of the most commonly recycled plastics, (abbreviation for #1 plastics).
3. An unclear plastic that is frequently recycled (hint, Got ____?).
4. Something you might sit on made from recycled #2 plastic.
5. What #1 plastics can be recycled into (hint, something you might wear).



Down

1. Plastics are originally made from this (hint, also called oil).
2. One of the most commonly recycled plastics, (abbreviation for #2 plastics).
3. A clear plastic that is frequently recycled (hint, its contents is bubbly).

Answers: Across - 1) code, 2) PETE, 3) milk jugs, 4) park bench, 5) T-shirt Down - 1) petroleum, 2) HDPE, 3) soda bottles

for more info...

American Plastics Council, <http://www.americanplasticscouncil.org>
 NAPCOR (The National Association For PET Container Resources), <http://www.napcor.com>
 The Environmental Protection Agency's "Explorers' Club", <http://www.epa.gov/kids/>
 The Earth 911 Handy Kid's Section, <http://www.earth911.org/hand>



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