

# FROM THE RECYCLING COORDINATOR



## Identifying Plastics

### #1-PET - Polyethylene Terephthalate

**Soft drink bottles, salad dressing, peanut butter, popcorn containers**

Characteristics: Stiff & transparent. Bottles cannot be manufactured with handles.

*After Recycling:* Carpet, twine, rope, belts, webbing, scouring pads, fenceposts, sails, fiberfill for pillows, cushions, insulated outerwear

### #2-HDPE - High Density Polyethylene

**Milk jugs, water bottles, detergent, bleach, and other cleaning agent bottles**

Characteristics: Moderately flexible to stiff, translucent or opaque and colored

*After Recycling:* Waterproof plastic lumber, flowerpots, drainage pipes, trash cans, traffic barriers, cones and signs

### #3-PVC - Polyvinyl Chloride

**Cooking oil bottles, film covering on meat packages**

Characteristics: Stiff, transparent with a slightly blue or grey tint

*After Recycling:* Drainage, sewer and irrigation pipes, handrails, pipe fittings, downspouts

### #4-LDPE - Low Density Polyethylene

**Some grocery store produce bags, bread bags, food storage wrap**

Characteristics: Flexible, translucent to waxy in appearance, opaque coloring is possible

*After Recycling:* Traffic barriers, cones and signs, speed bumps, landscape timber, irrigation pipes, plastic garbage bags

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## **#5-PP - Polypropylene**

**Yogurt containers, shampoo bottles, syrup bottles, margarine tubs**

Characteristics: Stiff with a high melting point. Often used as inside layer for food packages

*After Recycling:* Manhole steps, video cassette casings, ice scrapers, paint buckets, lawn mower wheels, automobile battery parts

## **#6-PS - Polystyrene**

**Hot beverage cups, fast food clamshell containers, meat trays, egg cartons**

Characteristics: White foam or hard and brittle; crystal clear with a shiny finish

*After Recycling:* Converted into pellets and used for plastic lumber, building insulation, packaging materials

## **#7- OTHER**

Characteristics: Because of the mixed plastic content, it is usually "squeezeable"

*After Recycling:* Plastic lumber, traffic barriers, etc.