

The Plastic Identification Code

Bottoms up! Recycling plastic is easy at work and at home



- Ring your local Council or Plastics New Zealand to find out what plastic is recycled in your area
- Most City Councils recycle PET & HDPE plastic
- We make recycling easy by coding your plastic
- Check the bottom of bottles and containers for the plastic identification code!
- Rinse
- Squash
- Remove the cap
- Put it in your recycling bin or drop off at your local resource exchange centre.

Did you know: Recyclers need more milk and soft drink bottles. Are you recycling these at home, at school, and at work?

An investment in your future

Plastics New Zealand Incorporated works to maximise the growth and success of Plastics-based technology in New Zealand in an economically, socially and environmentally responsible manner.

Our members voluntarily label their plastic products so they are easily identified for reuse and recycling.

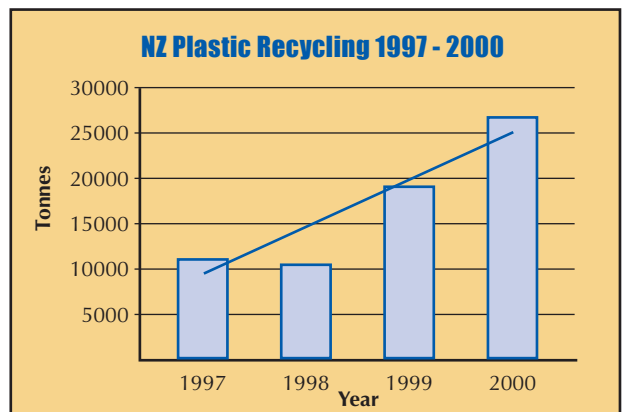
Plastics New Zealand introduced its plastic identification coding system in the early 1990s. A growing number of New Zealand towns and cities are implementing recycling schemes in an effort to reduce waste to landfills. Because these target packaging the coding system focuses on the six most common plastics. Currently, over 60% of recovered plastic comes from commercial sources.

All plastics can technically be recycled but what is being recycled varies from area to area. This is usually because of economic or volume constraints. Check with your local Council.



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NEW ZEALAND PLASTIC RECYCLING 2000

Plastic	Tonnes
1 PET	4772t
2 HDPE	5736t
3 PVC	2180t
4 LDPE	5229t
5 PP	574t
6 PS	978t
7 Industrial Film	340t
8 Other	5893t
TOTAL	26,702t

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Symbol	Type of Plastic	Properties	Common Uses	Recycled In
 PET	PET Polyethylene Terephthalate	Clear, tough, solvent resistant, barrier to gas and moisture, softens at 80°C	Soft drink and water bottles, salad domes, biscuit trays, salad dressing and peanut butter containers	Pillow and sleeping bag filling, clothing, soft drink bottles, carpet
 PE-HD	PE-HD High Density Polyethylene	Hard to semi-flexible, resistant to chemicals and moisture, waxy surface, opaque, softens at 75°C, easily coloured, processed and formed	Crinkly shopping bags, freezer bags, milk bottles, ice cream containers, juice bottles, shampoo, chemical and detergent bottles, buckets, rigid agricultural pipe, milk crates	Recycling bins, compost bins, buckets, detergent containers, posts, fencing, pipes
 PVC	PVC Unplasticised Polyvinyl Chloride PVC-U Plasticised Polyvinyl Chloride PVC-P	Strong, tough, can be clear, can be solvent welded, softens at 80°C Flexible, clear, elastic, can be solvent welded	Cosmetic containers, electrical conduit, plumbing pipes and fittings, blister packs, wall cladding, roof sheeting, bottles Garden hose, shoe soles, cable sheathing, blood bags and tubing, watch straps	Flooring, film and sheets, cables, speed bumps, packaging, binders, mud flaps and mats
 PE-LD	PE-LD Low density Polyethylene	Soft, flexible, waxy surface, translucent, softens at 70°C, scratches easily	Glad wrap, garbage bags, squeeze bottles, black irrigation tube, black mulch film, garbage bins	Rubbish bin liners, pallet sheets
 PP	PP Polypropylene	Hard but still flexible, waxy surface, softens at 140°C, translucent, withstands solvents, versatile	Dip pottles and ice cream tubs, potato chip bags, straws, microwave dishes, kettles, garden furniture, lunch boxes, blue packing tape	Pegs, bins, pipes, pallet sheets, oil funnels, car battery cases, trays
 PS  PS-E	PS Polystyrene PS-E Expanded Polystyrene	Clear, glassy, rigid, brittle, opaque, semi-tough, softens at 95°C. Affected by fats and solvents Foamed, light weight, energy absorbing, heat insulating	CD cases, plastic cutlery, imitation 'crystal glassware', low cost brittle toys, video cases Foamed polystyrene hot drink cups, hamburger take-away clamshells, foamed meat trays, protective packaging for fragile items	Coat hangers, coasters, white ware components, stationery trays and accessories
 OTHER	OTHER Letters below indicate ISO code for plastic type e.g. SAN, ABS, PC, Nylon	Includes all other resins and multi materials (e.g. laminates) Properties dependent on plastic or combination of plastics	Car parts, appliance parts, computers, electronics, water cooler bottles, packaging	Car parts, concrete aggregate, plastic timber