








The triangle with the little number in it actually tells you what type of resin (or plastic) was used for the container.

TYPES OF PLASTIC:

						
PET	HDPE	PVC	LDPE	PP	PS	Other
Polyethylene terephthalate (or PET). PET can be semi-rigid to rigid and is very lightweight. It is strong, impact-resistant, and naturally colorless and transparent.	High-density polyethylene (or HDPE). HDPE is made from petroleum and has a stronger intermolecular force and tensile strength than low density polyethylene (LDPE). It is also harder and more opaque and can withstand somewhat higher temperatures.	Polyvinyl chloride (or PVC). Nearly 57% of PVC is chlorine, requiring less petroleum than other plastics. PVC is biologically and chemically resistant and it's durable for long periods of time and withstands various environmental demands.	Low-density polyethylene (or LDPE). LDPE is made from oil. Its tensile strength and density is lower, but its resilience is higher than high-density polyethylene (HDPE). It can be translucent or opaque, is flexible, tough, and almost unbreakable.	Polypropylene (or PP). PP is less flexible than LDPE, somewhat stiffer than other plastics, reasonably economical, and can be translucent, opaque, or of any color. PP has very good resistance to fatigue. Food containers will not melt in the dishwasher nor during industrial hot filling processes.	Polystyrene or (PS). PS is made from petroleum. Pure solid polystyrene is a colorless, hard plastic with limited flexibility. It can be cast into molds with fine detail. Polystyrene can be transparent or can be made to take on various colors.	Other: This is the catch all category of all other plastics. Many biodegradable, photo-sensitive, and plant-based plastics fit in this

Is it usually recyclable?*

						
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Typical Uses:

						
Soft drink bottles, cooking oil bottles, peanut butter jars, products containing essential oils, some fruit juices, alcohol beverage bottles, space blankets	Milk jugs, distilled water, large vinegar bottles, grocery bags, liquid laundry and dish detergent, fabric softener, motor oil, antifreeze, bleach and lotion.	Chemical spray bottles, pipes, electrical wire insulation, clothing, bags, upholstery, tubing, flooring, waterbeds, pool toys, bottles.	Dry-cleaning bags, produce bags, trash can liners, food storage containers, bread bags, squeezable containers, six pack soda can rings, food storage.	Bottle caps, drinking straws, hinged containers, battery cases, dairy tubs (e.g. sour cream, cottage cheese), cereal box liners.	Bottle caps, drinking straws, yogurt cups, clear carryout containers, vitamin bottles, fast food, spoons, knives and forks, hot cups, meat and produce trays, egg cartons, clamshell carryout food containers	Sunglasses, computercases, baby bottles, bullet proof materials.

* The recyclability of each type of plastic will vary from state to state and county to county, depending on the laws and recycling technology in each area. Check with your local recycling program to learn what plastics can and cannot be recycled in your area.