

Guide to Plastic Grades



Polyethylene terephthalate (PET or PETE)



Properties: Clarity, barrier to gas and moisture, heat resistant, toughness.



Examples: Water bottles, food jars, ovenable film.



Recycled products: Fibres, drink bottles.



High density polyethylene (HDPE)



Properties: Toughness, resistance to moisture and chemicals, ease of processing.



Examples: Milk containers, wheelie bins, juice bottles.



Recycled products: Recycling bins, pallets.



Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)



Properties: Versatility, toughness, resistance to grease, oil and chemicals.



Examples: Plumbing pipes, cleaning product bottles, medical products.



Recycled products: Pipes, packaging.



Low density polyethylene (LDPE)



Properties: Toughness, flexibility, ease of sealing, barrier to moisture.



Examples: Usually thin and pliable e.g. shopping bags, food containers, gloves.



Recycled products: Plastic bags, dispensing bottles.



Polypropylene (PP)



Properties: Strength, toughness, versatility, barrier to moisture.



Examples: Condiment bottles, medicine bottles, bottle caps, tupperware.



Recycled products: Auto parts, industrial fibres, pots.



Polystyrene (PS)



Properties: Versatility, insulation, clarity, easily formed.



Examples: Disposable cups, cutlery, food boxes, packaging foam.



Recycled products: Pots, tubs, trays.



Miscellaneous



Properties: Other plastics. Properties dependent on chemical makeup.



Examples: Baby bottles, CDs, storage containers, number plates.



Recycled products: Car parts, pallets.

