

Sort it Out.

UBC sustainability
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PLASTICS BY NUMBER

All plastics are given a number from 1-7 and are encased in three arrows that create a triangle. In some cases you will also see letters beside the symbol to identify the type of plastic (e.g., PET, LDPE). Plastics stamped 1-7 are recyclable to various degrees, depending on your municipality's recycling program. The safest plastics to reuse are #2, #4 and #5. Plastics stamped #1, #3, #6 and #7 are best purchased in moderation and do recycle after ONE use. UBC Okanagan recycling stations accept plastics #1-3 and 5-7.



PET (polyethylene terephthalate)

In most water and pop bottles, and some packaging. Hard to de-contaminate. Proper cleaning releases harmful chemicals. May leach carcinogens, like DEHA.

DO NOT
USE



HDPE (high-density polyethylene)

In milk, detergent and oil bottles, toys and plastic bags. Considered one of the safest forms of plastic.

REUSABLE



PVC (vinyl/polyvinyl chloride)

In food wraps, food oil bottles, teething rings, pet's toys and blister packaging. Produces toxins from manufacture through disposal. Avoid microwave use.

DO NOT
USE



LDPE (low-density polyethylene)

In shrink wraps, garment bags (from dry cleaners), squeezable bottles and plastic bags. Less toxic than other plastics.

REUSABLE



PP (polypropylene)

In bottle tops, disposable diapers, carpeting, bags and food wraps, yogurt and margarine containers. Considered one of the safest plastics.

REUSABLE



PS (polystyrene)

In plastic cutlery, foam packaging. May leach into food products.

AVOID
USE



Other (LEXAN, polycarbonate, BPA aka bisphenol A)

Usually layered or mixed plastics

DO NOT
USE