







What do Those Numbers on the Bottom of Plastic Bottles Mean?

- 1 – PET, polyethylene terephthalate
- 2 – HDPE, high-density polyethylene
- 3 – PVC, polyvinyl chloride
- 4 – LDPE, low-density polyethylene
- 5 – PP, polypropylene
- 6 – PS/PS-E, polystyrene / expanded polystyrene
- 7 – OTHER, resins or multi-materials

| Symbol | Acronym | Full name and uses |
|---|---------|--|
|  | PET | Polyethylene terephthalate - Fizzy drink bottles and frozen ready meal packages. |
|  | HDPE | High-density polyethylene - Milk and washing-up liquid bottles |
|  | PVC | Polyvinyl chloride - Food trays, cling film, bottles for squash, mineral water and shampoo. |
|  | LDPE | Low density polyethylene - Carrier bags and bin liners. |
|  | PP | Polypropylene - Margarine tubs, microwave-able meal trays. |
|  | PS | Polystyrene - Yoghurt pots, foam meat or fish trays, hamburger boxes and egg cartons, vending cups, plastic cutlery, protective packaging for electronic goods and toys. |
|  | Other | Any other plastics that do not fall into any of the above categories. For example melamine, often used in plastic plates and cups. |