

# PLASTICS ESSENTIALS

## COMMON USES



## RECYCLED INTO



**PET**  
Polyethylene terephthalate  
soda, water and juice bottles;  
some takeout containers

fiberfill for winter coats, sleeping and bean bags; rope, carpet, parking stops and other plastic bottles.



**HDPE**  
High Density Polyethylene  
milk and water jugs, some margarine tubs, detergent bottles, grocery sacks

toys, piping, plastic lumber, nursery containers and other plastic bottles



**PV**  
Polyvinyl Chloride  
some detergent bottles, shrink wrap, siding and pipes, product packaging

plastic pipes, shower curtains, medical tubing and vinyl dashboards



**LDPE**  
Low Density Polyethylene  
garbage, sandwich, and dry cleaning bags; six-pack rings, lids from tubs

plastic lumber, wrapping films, grocery/sandwich bags and recycling carts



**PP**  
Polypropylene  
yogurt cups, margarine tubs, screw-on lids/caps from bottles

clothes hangers, car bumpers



**PS**  
Polystyrene  
expanded styrofoam, egg cartons, cups, and packing pellets; cutlery and picnic cups

baseboards, CD cases, lightweight concrete and packaging



**Mixed Plastics**  
squeezable bottles, biodegradable plastics

nothing at this time.

RECYCLED INTO items colored orange are manufactured in NC

## Bottles and Tubes



### PRODUCT DIFFERENTIATION

Just think about a pancake and a biscuit; although they are made of the same ingredients (water, eggs, flour and milk), there are different quantities of these ingredients within each item. Pancake batter is runnier than biscuit batter, making it easier to pour. Whereas, biscuit batter is more easily molded. You cook them at different temperatures for different lengths of time, one in the oven and one on the stove.

Plastics are the same way. They all have the same initial components that makes them plastic and relate to the number they are given (i.e., 1-7); however, the individual makeup within each product dictates our ability to recycle it. Injection-blown plastics, like a water bottle, are similar to pancakes; and molded plastics, such as a butter tub, are similar to biscuits. So even though a plastic item may have #2 on the bottom of it, not all #2s are the same.



What if it has arrows?

**Can any plastic bottle with a recycling symbol be recycled in my community?**

To see what's recyclable near you, go to <http://nc.mycoville.com/ecosearch>

**NO** The plastics industry created the coding system to mean it can be recycled somewhere in the world but not necessarily in your town.