

Plastics Identification Code

The Plastics Identification Code identifies the type of plastic resin a product is made from. The Code makes it easier for re-processors to identify and separate used plastics for a range of new applications. Consistent with the waste hierarchy, single and mixed materials can be recycled into a range of new products or converted into energy.

TYPE OF PLASTIC	PROPERTIES		APPLICATIONS:	
	Incl. Specific Gravity & Heat Distortion Temp.		Virgin Grades	Recycled grades MAJOR USE / minor use
 PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate PET	Clear, tough, solvent resistant. Used for rigids, sheets and fibres. Softens: 55° C SG = 1.38	Carbonated soft drink bottles, fruit juice bottles, pillow and sleeping bag filling, textile fibres	BEVERAGE BOTTLES Clothing, geo-textiles, bottles for detergents etc., laminated sheets, clear packaging film, carpet fibres
 HDPE	High Density Polyethylene HDPE	Hard to semi-flexible, waxy surface, opaque. Softens: 60° C SG = 0.96	Crinkly shopping bags, freezer bags, milk bottles, bleach bottles, buckets, rigid agricultural pipe, milk crates	FILM, BLOW MOULDED CONTAINERS Agricultural pipes, pallets, bins for compost and kerbside collections, extruded sheet, moulded products, crates, garden edging, household bags, oil containers, pallets.
 V UPVC	Unplasticised Polyvinyl Chloride UPVC	Hard rigid, can be clear, can be solvent welded Softens: 70° C SG = 1.40	Electrical conduit, plumbing pipes and fittings, blister packs, clear cordial and fruit juice bottles	PIPE, FLOORING Pipe and hose fittings, garden hose, electrical conduit, shoes, road cone bases, drainage pipes, electrical conduit and ducting, detergent bottles
	Plasticised Polyvinyl Chloride PPVC	Flexible, clear, elastic, can be solvent welded Softens: 70° C SG = 1.35	Garden hose, shoe soles, cable sheathing, blood bags and tubing, watch straps, rain wear	
 LDPE	Low Density Polyethylene LDPE Linear: LLDPE	Soft, flexible, waxy surface translucent, withstands solvents Softens: 40° C SG = 0.92	Garbage bags, squeeze bottles, black irrigation tube, stretch and shrink films, silage and mulch films, garbage bins	FILMS: BUILDERS, CONCRETE LINING and BAGS Agricultural pipe, nursery & other films
 PP	Polypropylene PP	Semi-crystalline, wide property and application range. Translucent (can be transparent), hard, flexible, good chemical resistance, low SG. Softens: 80° C SG = 0.90	Film, carpet fibre, appliance parts, crates, automotive applications, toys, pails, housewares / kitchenwares, bottles, caps and closures, furniture, plant pots.	CRATES, BOXES, PLANT POTS Compost bins, garden edging, irrigation fittings, building panels
 PS	Polystyrene PS	Clear, glassy, rigid, brittle, opaque semi-tough, melts at 95°C. Affected by fats and solvents. Softens: 85° C PS = 1.06	Refrigerator bins & crispers, air conditioner, office accessories, coat hangers, medical disposables. Meat & poultry trays, yoghurt & dairy containers, vending cups	INDUSTRIAL PACKAGING, COAT HANGERS, CONCRETE REINFORCING CHAIRS Moulded products, coat hangers, office accessories, spools, rulers, video cases and printer cartridges
	Expanded Polystyrene EPS	Foamed, light weight, energy absorbing, heat insulating Softens: 85° C SG = 0.92	Drinking cups, meat trays, clamshells, panel insulation, produce boxes, protective packaging for fragile items	PRODUCE BOXES Waffle pods for buildings, building and picture frame mouldings
 OTHER	OTHER : Includes all other resins and multi materials (eg laminates). Eg acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), acrylic, nylon, polyurethane (PU), polycarbonates (PC) and phenolics.		Automotive, aircraft and boating, furniture, electrical and medical	AGRICULTURAL PIPING Furniture fittings, wheels and castors. Fence posts, pallets, outdoor furniture and marine structures

PLASTICS: A VALUABLE RESOURCE – EVERY TIME

The complete Plastics Identification Code of Practice is available from PACIA: www.pacia.org.au