

## Plastics and Their Uses

Name	SPI <sup>1</sup> Code	Description	Uses
<b>PET, PETE</b> <b>Polyethylene terephthalate</b>	1	High strength; transparent; barrier to gas and moisture, resistant to heat; sinks in water	Plastic soft drink and water bottles, beer bottles, mouthwash bottles, peanut butter and salad dressing containers, ovenable film and ovenable prepared food trays.
<b>HDPE</b> <b>High density polyethylene</b>	2	Tough; chemical and moisture resistant; permeability to gas; translucent or opaque matte finish; floats in water	Milk, water and juice containers, trash and retail bags, liquid detergent bottles, yogurt and margarine tubs, cereal box liners.
<b>PVC</b> <b>Polyvinyl chloride</b>	3	Hardy; chemical resistant; resistant to grease/oil; transparent, translucent or opaque; sinks in water.	Clear food packaging, shampoo bottles, medical tubing, wire and cable insulation.
<b>LDPE</b> <b>Low density polyethylene</b>	4	Tough; lightweight; barrier to moisture; can be nearly transparent or opaque; low to high gloss; floats in water.	Bread bags, frozen food bags, squeezable bottles, fiber, tote bags, bottles, clothing, furniture, carpet.
<b>PP</b> <b>Polypropylene</b>	5	Hard; resistant to chemicals; resistant to heat; barrier to moisture; resistant to grease/oil; transparent, translucent, or opaque; floats in water.	Ketchup bottles, yogurt containers and margarine tubs, medicine bottles
<b>PS</b> <b>Polystyrene</b>	6	Stiff; transparent or opaque; smooth surface; sinks in water.	Compact disc jackets, aspirin bottles
<b>EPS</b> <b>Expanded polystyrene</b>	6	Lightweight; heat resistant; insulating; opaque; foamed; floats in water.	Food service applications, grocery store meat trays, egg cartons, cups, plates.
<b>Other</b>	7	Use of this code indicates that the package in question is made with a resin other than the six listed above, or is made of more than one resin listed above, and used in a multi-layer combination. Characteristics dependent on resin or combination of resins.	Three and five gallon reusable water bottles, some citrus juice and catsup bottles.

<sup>1</sup> Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc.