



# Recycling plastics in your kerbside bin

Most people assume that the triangular symbols containing a number on plastic items are recycling symbols. But they are not. They are Plastic Identification Codes which manufacturers use to identify the type of plastic a product is made from.

## Plastic identification codes

As well as a Plastic Identification Code, some products may also show a recycling symbol, however this doesn't necessarily mean they can be put in your kerbside recycling bin.

## Which plastics can be recycled?

Any plastic bottle or container that is rigid can be recycled. An item is rigid if it holds its shape when crumpled, is not soft and doesn't rip.

Plastic Identification Code	Plastic type	Product examples	Goes in your kerbside recycling bin?
	Polyethylene Terephthalate <b>PET/PETE</b>	Soft drink bottles, water bottles, cleaning and detergent bottles, biscuit trays, berry punnets	
	High Density Polyethylene <b>HDPE</b>	Milk bottles, shampoo and conditioner bottles	
		Plastic shopping bags	
	Unplasticised Polyvinyl Chloride <b>UPVC</b>	Cordial & juice bottles	
	Plasticised Polyvinyl Chloride	Garden hoses, rain wear	
	Low Density Polyethylene <b>LDPE</b>	Squeezy sauce bottles	
		Garbage bags, cling wrap, toothpaste tubes, soft moisturising tubes, plastic wraps	
	Polypropylene <b>PP</b>	Ice cream containers and lids, take away containers, plastic pots for plants	
		Chip packets, muesli bar wrappers, lolly wrappers	
	Polystyrene <b>PS</b>	Yoghurt, ricotta, margarine, butter containers	
	Expanded Polystyrene <b>EPS</b>	Foam drink cups, foam meat trays, polystyrene packaging	
	Other plastics	Some reusable drink bottles and storage containers	

## Plastic bags and soft plastics



Do not place plastic bags and soft plastics in your recycling bin. Plastic bags and soft plastics are not recyclable through your kerbside recycling service. Plastic bags create all sorts of problems at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) by wrapping around the machinery and also pose a health and safety risk as sorters do not know what is in them.

Plastic bags can be recycled through specially labelled bins at some supermarkets

## Expanded Polystyrene Foam



Expanded polystyrene used for items such as foam cups, meat trays and packaging are often labelled with a number 6 but as this plastic has been 'expanded' from a rigid form to a foam it cannot be placed in kerbside recycle bins.

However you can take your polystyrene foam to a Transfer Station to be recycled for free. Otherwise, place it in the rubbish bin.

## Plastic lids



Lids that are smaller than a fifty cent piece and are placed loose in the recycling bin are often too small to be captured at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) where recyclables get sorted and end up at landfill.



Instead, collect your lids in a bottle with a larger opening and once full, place the lid on the bottle and put it in the recycling bin. Sorters at the MRF will easily be able to identify and sort your bottle with lids and recycle it with other mixed plastics. You can also leave your lid on your bottle, but you must make sure your bottle is empty and has no fluids in it before placing it in the recycling bin.

## Remember! If in doubt, throw it out!

If you are uncertain whether a plastic is recyclable or not and it does not have a plastic identification code displayed on it, it's best to **THROW IT OUT**, rather than place any incorrect materials in your recycling bin which often results in your bin's contents being unsuitable for recycling and may cause an entire truckload of recyclables being rejected for reprocessing and ending up in landfill instead.

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## More information

For tips on recycling and what materials can and cannot be placed in your recycling bin call Council or go to [www.mildura.vic.gov.au/recycle](http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/recycle)

For details about what items can be recycled at local landfills and transfer stations Call Council or go to [www.mildura.vic.gov.au/waste](http://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/waste)