

## 02 Recyclable Plastics



### **Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) - easy to recycle**

The most commonly used plastic in the world. In its resin form it's used to make bottles and containers for food and drink. The same polymer when used for fabrics is known as polyester. PET is strong, lightweight, hygienic and shatterproof. PET is easily recyclable and can also be made with recycled content.



### **High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) - easy to recycle**

High Density Polyethylene is extremely strong and durable so is used to produce corrosion resistant piping, building materials and packaging for thick, heavy liquids. HDPE is durable, strong and can be used with corrosive materials such as bleach. HDPE is easily recyclable and can also be made with recycled content.



### **Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) - difficult to recycle**

Polyvinyl Chloride can be made in two ways: rigid and flexible. Flexible PVC is used to make bottles, packaging and medical devices. Rigid PVC most commonly used in construction and plumbing as pipes, doors and windows. PVC in both rigid and flexible forms has high tensile strength, is durable, long lasting and robust. These products are not easily recycled.



### **Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE) - manageable to recycle**

Low Density Polyethylene is used to make carrier bags, bin liners, packaging films and other flexible items. LDPE is flexible, strong and can be used in corrosive environments. Manageable to recycle, check with your local collection service to see if they are accepting LDPE plastic items for recycling. You can often re-use these products as well.





### **Polypropylene (PP) - easy to recycle**

Polypropylene is the second most commonly produced plastic, its versatility enabling it to be used in a huge range of applications. PP is colourfast, heat resistant, fatigue resistant and highly resistant to corrosion and chemical leaching. PP is easily recyclable and can be recycled in a closed loop four times before the process has a negative impact on the polymer.



### **Polystyrene (PS) - difficult to recycle**

Polystyrene is most commonly known in its expanded form, used as protective packaging materials. It is also used in its rigid form to make food packaging such as yoghurt pots and disposable crockery, cd cases, petri dishes and disposable razors. These products are not easily recycled, however there are a few places that will accept and recycle them – this requires research.



### **Other forms of plastic (Other) - difficult to recycle**

Seven is used to class all other types of plastics that do not fall into any of the other 6 categories. This includes acrylic, nylon, polycarbonate, bioplastics and plastic combinations. Very difficult to recycle, these products are not easily recycled or reusable, they simply go in the general waste bin.