

Plastics and Their Uses

Name	SPI Code	Description	Uses
PET (Polyethylene terephthalate)	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 pre-prepared food trays.
HDPE (High density polyethylene)	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.
PVC (Polyvinyl chloride)	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.
LDPE (Low density polyethylene)	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.
PP (Polypropylene)	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
PS (Polystyrene)	6	Stiff; transparent or opaque; smooth surface; sinks in water.	Compact disc jackets, aspirin bottles.
EPS (Expanded polystyrene)	6	Lightweight; heat resistant; insulating; opaque; foamed; floats in water.	Food service applications, grocery store meat trays, egg cartons, cups, plates.