# 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

| TYPE OF PLASTIC | PROPERTIES | APPLICATIONS: Virgin Grades | APPLICATIONS: Recycled grades
|-----------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 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
| 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
| 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
| 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 | FILMS: BUILDERS, CONCRETE LINING and BAGS
| 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
| 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
| 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
| 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
| 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

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**PLASTICS: A VALUABLE RESOURCE – EVERY TIME**

The complete Plastics Identification Code of Practice is available from PACIA: [www.pacia.org.au](http://www.pacia.org.au)

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