

# Understanding Plastics - Activity Card

## Is plastic good or bad? -

There isn't a yes or no answer to this!

Plastic is an amazing man-made material which can be used to make all kinds of important things, such as, bike helmets, airbags and medical supplies. Things made from plastic can save lives and bring clean water to people who would otherwise not have access to it.

The problem is we use more plastic than we need to, with 50% of plastics produced being designed to be used once and thrown away!

Although, we can recycle plastic only 9% of all plastic ever made has been recycled!

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## The Challenge -

Did you know that there are 7 different types of plastic, but not all can be recycled through your household recycling bins. Therefore, it is essential to know how to identify these different plastics.

**PET 1 - Polyethylene Terephthalate** - Clear tough e.g. water bottle

**HDPE 2 - High Density Polyethylene** - White or coloured e.g. milk bottle

**PVC 3 - Polyvinyl Chloride** - Hard rigid e.g. pipe

**LDPE 4 - Low Density Polyethylene** - Soft flexible e.g. cling film

**PP 5 - Polypropylene** - Hard but flexible e.g. bottle cap

**PS 6 - Polystyrene/Foamed Polystyrene** - Hard and colourless e.g. CD Case or rigid foam e.g. protective packaging

**Other 7** - All other types of plastic e.g. nylon


These all have a specific symbol to identify them. Can you match the plastic item to its plastic symbol type? You could test this by looking for the symbols on plastic packaging around you.

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Extension Home Learning - Home Waste & Recycling Audit

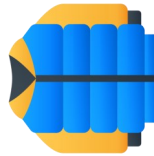


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POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE		PET or PETE
HIGH-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE		HDPE
POLYVINYL CHLORIDE		PVC
LOW-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE		LDPE
POLYPROPYLENE		PP
POLYSTYRENE		PS
All other plastics, including acrylic, fiberglass, nylon, polycarbonate, and polyactic acid (a bioplastic)		OTHER



Bin Bag



Nylon Coat



Polystyrene Cup



Yogurt Pot



Shampoo Bottle



Ketchup Bottle



Plastic Chair