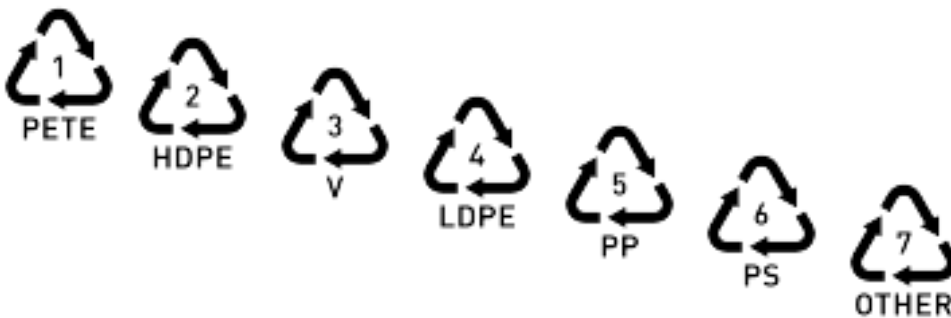


Processing > Identifying Plastic Waste

Plastic identification

In 1988, to assist recycling of disposable items, the Plastic Bottle Institute of the U.S. Society of the Plastics Industry devised a scheme to mark plastic bottles by plastic type.

Under this scheme, a plastic container is marked with a triangle of three "chasing arrows", which encloses a number denoting the plastic type:



Plastics type marks: the [resin identification code](#)

1. [Polyethylene terephthalate](#) (PET or PETE)
2. [High-density polyethylene](#) (HDPE)
3. [Polyvinyl chloride](#) (PVC)
4. [Low-density polyethylene](#) (LDPE)
5. [Polypropylene](#) (PP)
6. [Polystyrene](#) (PS)

Identification of plastic items that bear this mark is fairly trivial, however not all items will carry this mark.