

CARING FOR OUR EARTH (It's easy being green!)

From the Estuary Angels

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Remove, Refuse, Repair

What do the numbers on plastic mean?

Those number symbols on plastic were not created for recycling! They were started by the Society of Plastics Industry (SPI) to simply identify the plastic resin content, not to identify for recycling. Maybe that's why some of the numbers are so hard to see! Here are the seven standard classifications for plastics. (Picture the triangle symbol around the numbers.) **Be sure to follow your local recycling company's guidelines for which plastics they accept. It can vary widely.**

#1 PETE or PET (*polyethylene terephthalate*). Used in microwavable food trays; salad dressing, soft drink, water, and beer bottles. Hard to clean; absorbs bacteria and flavors; avoid reusing. Is recycled to make carpet, furniture, new containers, Polar fleece.

#2 HDPE (*high-density polyethylene*). Used in household cleaner and shampoo bottles, milk jugs, yogurt tubs. Transmits no known chemicals into food. Is recycled to make detergent bottles, fencing, floor tiles, pens.

#3 V or PVC (*vinyl*). Used in cooking oil bottles, clear food packaging, mouthwash bottles. Is believed to contain phthalates that interfere with hormonal development; avoid. Is recycled to make cables, mudflaps, paneling, roadway gutters.

#4 LDPE (*low-density polyethylene*). Used in bread and shopping bags, carpet, clothing, furniture. Transmits no known chemicals into food. Is recycled to make envelopes, floor tiles, lumber, trash-can liners.

#5 PP (*polypropylene*). Used in ketchup bottles, medicine and syrup bottles, drinking straws. Transmits no known chemicals into food. Is recycled to make battery cables, brooms, ice scrapers, rakes.

#6 PS (*polystyrene*). Used in disposable cups and plates, egg cartons, takeout containers. Is believed to leach styrene, a possible human carcinogen, into food; avoid. Is recycled to make foam packaging, insulation, light switch plates, rulers.

#7 Other (*miscellaneous*). Used in 3- and 5-gallon water jugs, nylon, some food containers. Contains bisphenol A, which has been linked to heart disease and obesity; avoid. Is recycled to make custom-made products. *Source: The Old Farmer's Almanac*

Special Days

Sept. 4 is *National Wildlife Day*. Sept. 7 is *Int'l Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies*. Sept. 15 is *Green Peace Day*. Sept. 16 is *Int'l Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer*. Sept. 17 is *Int'l Coastal Cleanup Day*. Sept. 18 is *World Water Monitoring Day*. Sept. 24 is *National Public Lands Day*. Sept. 29 is *Int'l Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste Reduction*.

Enjoy the Beauty Around Us – Part of the fun of the Mother of All Garage Sales (Reusing! Recycling!) recently in North Everett was enjoying the charming, historic architecture and beautiful landscaping along the way. It's easy to miss much of it just driving through. Take a walk, or a slow drive if not impeding traffic, and appreciate Everett's lovely neighborhoods.

"Autumn ... the year's last, loveliest smile." - William Cullen Bryant