



Plastic Containers (water, milk, soap, juice, etc.)

Most plastic containers you purchase will be marked with a large and clear recycling code. Look for the code to be molded into the bottom of the container. Ideally, the entire container will be made of the same plastic to avoid confusion. Most container caps are NOT made of the same type of plastic and should be removed before the container is recycled.

Plastic Grocery Sacks, Produce Bags, and Other Packaging

Plastic grocery and produce bags are commonly made from plastic Types 2 or 4 and often collected at supermarkets. But be aware that most manufacturers have not yet added the recycling codes to the bags. The plastic bag recycling bins at supermarkets should also be marked with the types and colors of plastic accepted. Commonly, Types 2 and 4 can be mixed, but not always. If your supermarket's bags or bins are not marked, please ask the store manager to do so.

Plastic bags for other products such as bread, pasta, marshmallows, etc. are often of Types 2 or 4, but you can't know unless they are marked. If the bags are not recyclable, they should be marked with Type 7.

Other Plastic Items

All products made of a single plastic type should be marked since they will probably be discarded one day. This includes toys, plastic hangers, trash cans, shelves and many other products.

Products such as compact discs, videotapes, and computer discs are made from mixed materials which cannot be recycled unless first disassembled.



Without plastics, 400 percent more material by weight and 200 percent more material by volume would be needed to make packaging, while the volume of packaging would more than double.



By using plastic in packaging, American product manufacturers save enough energy each year to power a city of one million homes for three-and-a-half years.