

RECYCLING PLASTICS

Over 60 million tonnes of **polythene** are produced **annually** worldwide, so recycling some of them will be much better for our environment; any plastics should never be left outside to degrade, even those with 'degradable' on them. Below are ways of getting rid of used plastic materials responsibly.

Kerbside recycling

(PET)* Soft drinks and water bottles, bleach, cleaners and most shampoo bottles are collected and recycled by Birmingham; <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/recycling#mixedmaterials>

(HDPE)* Milk bottles, some plastic tubs, pots (including yoghurt pots) and trays can also be recycled.

Look for the triangle with a number.

Black plastic trays used for ready meals should **not** be put in the recycling bin.

Don't put PVC with PET milk bottles in the recycling bin. it produces a nasty acid at high temperature

Recycling bins at Supermarkets for some other plastics

(LDPE)* Carrier bags, bin liners and packaging films.

There are bins at:

Sainsburys,
Morrisons,
Waitrose,
Tesco



Accepted for Recycling

Plastic cereal bags e.g. porridge oats (not inners from boxed cereals)
Plastic wrappers + ring joiners from multipacks of cans, plastic bottles
Plastic wrappers from toilet roll & kitchen towel packs
Plastic freezer bags, plastic bottles (lids removed)
Thin plastic Bags used for fruit & veg

Not Accepted

~~Any non-Polyethylene film, e.g. PP,PVC
Bubble wrap
Cling film
Crisp packets
Food & drink pouches
Film lids from ready meals & food trays~~

Please don't use products containing **PS, PE, PET** or **PMMA** (all different types of plastic) – these are used in beauty products/toothpaste./sun creams. They have minute particles of plastic which fish eat. We then eat the fish!

Synthetic clothing sheds microfibres in the wash, also ending up in the oceans and/croplands. You can buy a **Guppyfriend washbag online (£25 + £7 shipping from the US)**. To order: contact: 08000260055 Toll free number or www.patagonia.co.uk which gets you to the EU website.

At the delicatessen counter in supermarkets you can buy cheese which is **not wrapped in plastic** and ask for the cheese to be put in a brown paper bag. It tastes nicer! Do remember that a lot of plastics contain additives that could cause cancer, so, try to buy food not tightly wrapped in plastic.

Save paper (or even saved plastic) bags and take them with you when buying fruit & vegetables!

Some people buy fruit juice or soup in paper containers with a plastic liner. In Birmingham take them to the Household Recycling Centre in Lifford Lane, Kings Norton B30 3JJ. (Tel, 0121 778 699): Weekdays: open 8am to 6pm, Weekend 8am to .30 pm. Save a lot first – or make a bird feeder with the grandkids:



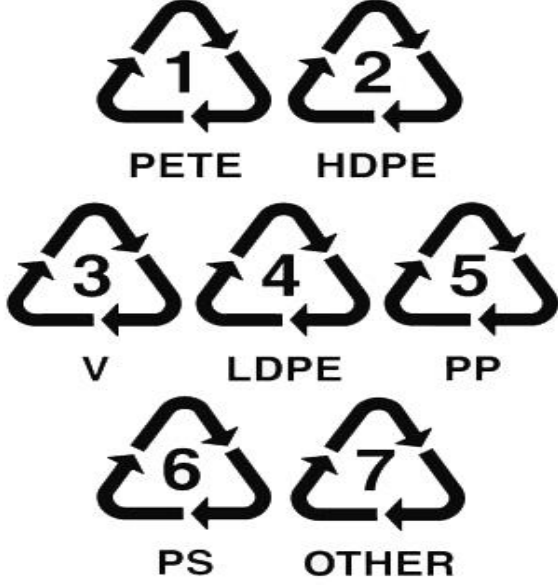
♣ *Birdfeeder from ALDI's advertising copy*

* **PET is short for Polyethylene Terephthalate:**


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* HDPE stands for high-density polyethylene and is made from petroleum

* LDPE stands for Low-density polyethylene

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #1 - PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) Kerbside recycling... • #2 - HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) ... Kerbside recycling • #3 – PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) ... Difficult to recycle • #4 – LDPE (Low-Density Polyethylene) ... Accepted by Supermarkets • #5 – PP (Polypropylene) Accepted by some, but not in Birmingham... • #6 – not recyclable)PS (Polystyrene) • #7 – Other (not recyclable) 	
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Here are the seven standard classifications for plastics, and the recycling and reuse information for each type.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #1 - PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) ... • #2 - HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) ... • #3 – PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride) ... • #4 – LDPE (Low-Density Polyethylene) ... • #5 – PP (Polypropylene) ... • #6 – PS (Polystyrene, not recyclable) • #7 – Other (not recyclable) 	
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Ocean garbage patches are vast and dispersed

Ocean currents concentrate plastic in five areas in the world: the subtropical gyres, also known as the world's "ocean garbage patches". Once in these patches, the plastic will not go away by itself. The challenge of cleaning up the gyres is the plastic pollution spreads across millions of square kilometers and travels in all directions. Covering this area using vessels and nets would take thousands of years and cost billions of dollars to complete. How can we use these ocean currents to our advantage? Currently the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is being targeted; plastics are being gathered inside several flexible booms. What to do with it then? Rotterdam Harbour now contains an artificial island, constructed from rubbish fished up from Dutch coastal waters.