

Which plastics can go in your

MIXED RECYCLING BIN



Understanding the different types of plastic is key to ensuring you maximise recycling opportunities and reduce contamination. With this handy guide, learn the various plastic grades to see which products and materials can go in your mixed recycling bin and ensure your business manages waste correctly.



What are

PLASTIC IDENTIFICATION CODES?

Most plastics come with a Resin Identification Code (RIC), which is typically a number between 1 and 7, encased in the familiar recycling triangle symbol. These numbers indicate the type of plastic.



GRADE 1.

PET

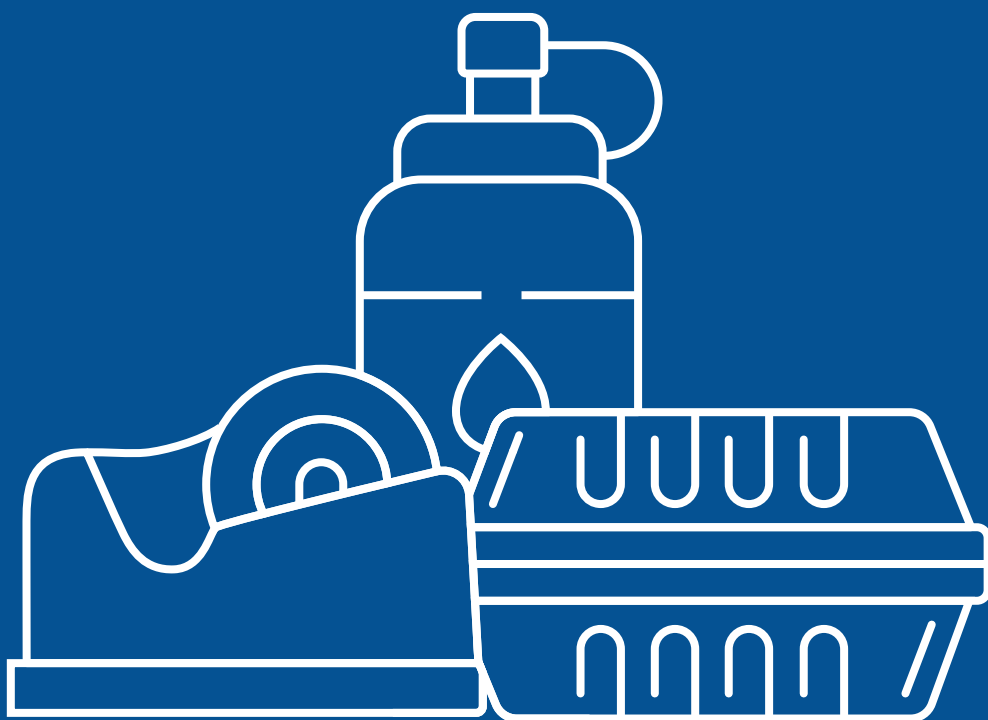
(Polyethylene Terephthalate)



PET is lightweight and one of the most commonly recycled plastics. This plastic can be fully recycled into new bottles or polyester fibres. Many believe only spotless post-consumer plastics are recyclable, but waste providers like Grundon can process mostly clean items. Remember to empty the contents before recycling the packaging.

Yes

this type of plastic can
be placed in your mixed
recycling bin



E.g. Drink bottles, food packaging, tape dispensers

GRADE 2.

HDPE

(High-Density Polyethylene)

HDPE is a rigid, highly recyclable plastic, often repurposed into items such as non-food containers, plastic lumber, and crates, offering a sustainable option over new plastic production. Make sure to empty containers first to avoid contamination.



Yes

this type of plastic can
be placed in your mixed
recycling bin



E.g. Milk jugs, detergent bottles, shampoo containers



GRADE 3.

PVC

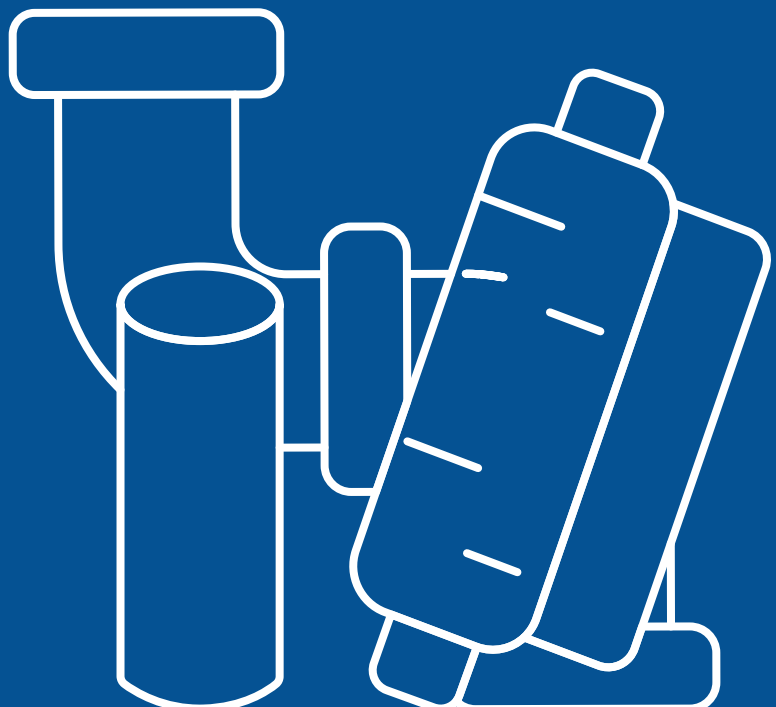
(Polyvinyl Chloride)



PVC is weather-resistant and insulating, but less commonly recycled due to the harmful chemicals released during the process and is typically repurposed into flooring or other non-recyclable products. For that reason, grade 3 plastics should go in your general waste bin.

No

this type of plastic
cannot be placed in your
mixed recycling bin



E.g. Pipes, plastic tubing, cling film



GRADE 4.

LDPE

(Low-Density Polyethylene)



LDPE is a flexible plastic often used in items like plastic bags but can pose recycling challenges due to its tendency to tangle in sorting machines. The recyclability of LDPE varies with local facility capabilities. While many supermarkets recycle plastic bags, businesses should consult with their waste collectors to manage LDPE properly. By 31 March 2027, **Simpler Recycling legislation** will require businesses to recycle plastic film. If your business generates significant volumes of LDPE or pallet wrap, contact Grundon. In some cases, you may be eligible to receive rebates for this material.

No

this type of plastic cannot be placed in your mixed recycling bin

[Learn More](#)



E.g. Plastic bags, bin liners, squeeze bottles

GRADE 5.

PP

(Polypropylene)



PP is fully recyclable and the second most widely used plastic after PET. It's versatility and ability to withstand heat makes it perfect for microwavable meals. PP has the smallest environmental impact of all plastic types and can even be turned into auto parts and industrial fibres. Make sure contents are empty and clean before recycling, to avoid contamination.

Yes

this type of plastic can
be placed in your mixed
recycling bin



E.g. Margarine tubs, microwaveable meal trays, yoghurt

GRADE 6.

PS

(Polystyrene)



PS is widely used for disposable utensils and within construction for its insulation and moisture resistance, but recycling PS is very complex and so it's not widely accepted. If your business produces a large quantity of PS, contact Grundon.

No

this type of plastic cannot be placed in your mixed recycling bin



E.g. Disposable cutlery, foam packaging, insulation

GRADE 7.

OTHER



Grade 7 plastics, which do not fit into categories 1-6, are hard to recycle and often belong in general waste due to varied chemical compositions. For specific disposal advice, consult your waste management provider, especially for bioplastics requiring industrial composting. For businesses that produce a large amount of Grade 7 plastics, Grundon will be able to advise on bespoke recycling solutions where available and help divert this grade from your general waste.

No

this type of plastic
cannot be placed in your
mixed recycling bin



E.g. CDs & DVDs, fibreglass (car parts),
bioplastics (disposable cutlery)

For more information
on how to deal with
your business's

PLASTIC WASTE

Contact our expert team



recycling@grundon.com

