

# Recycling of Plastics



## **Plastic #1 PETE or PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate)**

- Soda bottles, water bottles, beer bottles, salad dressing containers, mouthwash bottles, and peanut butter containers, vegetable oil bottles, salad dressing bottles
- Plastic #1 is recycled into tote bags, furniture, carpet, paneling, fiber, polar fleece, surfboards, and straps



## **Plastic #2 HDPE (High Density Polyethylene)**

- Milk jugs, household cleaner containers, juice bottles, shampoo bottles, cereal box liners, detergent bottles, motor oil bottles, yogurt tubs, and butter tubs.
- Plastic #2 is recycled into pens, recycling containers, picnic tables, lumber, benches, fencing, detergent bottles, etc.



## **Plastic #3 V or PVC (Vinyl or Polyvinyl Chloride)**

- Shampoo bottles, clear food packaging, cooking oil bottles, medical equipment, piping, and windows
- This plastic is recycled into paneling, flooring, speed bumps, decks, roadway gutters, hand rails, house siding, and mats



## **Plastic #4 LDPE (Low Density Polyethylene)**

- Squeezable bottles, shopping bags, clothing, carpet, sandwich bags, bread bags, some food wraps, and 6-pack rings
- This plastic is recycled into compost bins, paneling, trash can liners and cans, floor tiles, and shipping envelopes



## **Plastic #5 PP (Polypropylene)**

- Yogurt containers, ketchup bottles, syrup bottles, straws, screw on lids, and medicine bottles
- Polypropylene is recycled into brooms, auto battery cases, bins, pallets, signal lights, ice scrapers, rakes, and bicycle racks



### **Plastic #6 PS (Polystyrene)**

- Compact disc cases, egg cartons, meat trays, styrofoam, packing peanuts, and disposable plates and cups
- It is recycled into egg cartons, vents, foam packing, and insulation, pencil holders, tape dispensers, and rulers



### **Plastic #7 Other, Miscellaneous**

- Sunglasses, iPod cases, computer cases, nylon, 3- and 5-gallon water bottles, and bullet-proof materials
- It is recycled into plastic lumber, benches, and other custom-made products

### **~ Fast Facts ~**

- A plastic bottle of drinking water contains on average 4 cents worth of water.
- By using reusable containers an average person can eliminate the need for 100 disposable bottles per year.
- Plastic takes up to 1,000 years to degrade in a landfill.
- Only around 27% of plastic bottles are recycled.
- Plastic bags and other plastic garbage thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1,000,000 sea creatures a year! Ever heard of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch? It's twice the size of Texas and is floating somewhere between San Francisco and Hawaii. It's also 80 percent plastic, and weighs in at 3.5 million tons.
- 80 percent of Americans have access to a plastics recycling program.
- Plastic #1 is one of the most common and highly recycled resins.
- Only 9 percent of the total plastic waste generated in 2012 was recovered for recycling.
- Plastic bags do not biodegrade. Light breaks them down into smaller and smaller particles that contaminate the soil and water and are expensive and difficult to remove.
- Americans throw away 25,000,000,000 Styrofoam coffee cups every year.
- 17 million barrels of oil are used in producing bottled water each year.