



## Plastics recycling is easy... ...just remember Bottles, jugs, and dairy tubs

### **Why doesn't Kitsap County recycle some plastics that have recycling numbers?**

Without a buyer or factory nearby, recycling of some plastics is not economical. Some basic economic conditions must be met before recycling a certain plastic is a viable alternative:

- A market (geographically close) must exist
- The market conditions must be stable (consistent demand)
- Sufficient volumes of materials must be ensured (consistent supply)

### **Then what do the numbers on plastics mean?**

The numbers inside the recycling symbols are used by the plastics industry to identify specific resin types, which is related to the chemical make-up of the product. **It is not meant to indicate a certain plastic is recyclable in all geographic areas** (e.g., a clamshell container may have a #1 or #6, but it is currently not accepted anywhere in Kitsap County for recycling). Turn this sheet over for a description of each plastic type.

that hold cosmetics, shampoo, and detergents.

Comes back as: bottles for non food items such as shampoo, conditioner, laundry detergent, household cleaners, motor oil and antifreeze; plastic lumber, floor tiles, buckets, flower pots, and recycle bins.

### **Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC, Vinyl)**

Common uses: blister packs, clamshells, and products such as pipe, siding, fencing, decking, shrink-wrap.

Comes back as: pipe, decking, fencing, paneling, gutters, carpet backing, floor tiles, mats, traffic cones, garden hose, mobile home skirting.

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

### **Polystyrene (PS)**



Common uses: cups, plates, bowls, cutlery, clamshells, meat and poultry trays, and some yogurt containers.

Comes back as: license plate holders, flowerpots, trashcans, videocassettes, and underground drainage systems.



### **Other**

Use of this code indicates a package is made with a resin other than the six listed above or of more than one resin.

*But remember, when it comes to recycling in Kitsap County, don't look at the resin numbers. It's bottles, jugs, and dairy tubs!*

## **What Plastic Type Does Each Number Represent?**

Source: American Chemistry Council

### **Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET, PETE)**

Common uses: bottles for soft drinks, water, juice, sports drinks, beer, mouthwash, catsup and salad dressing. Jars for peanut butter, jelly, jam, and pickles.

Comes back as: carpet, fleece jackets, fiberfill for comforters, tote bags, strapping.

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

Common uses: milk jug, water and juice bottles, and containers that hold cosmetics, shampoo, and detergents.



Common uses: dry cleaner, bread, produce, garbage, and frozen food bags; toys, containers lids, honey and mustard containers.

Comes back as: shipping envelopes, garbage can liners, floor tile, paneling, compost bins, trash cans, landscape timber, and outdoor lumber.

### **Polypropylene (PP)**



Common uses: yogurt and margarine tubs, some takeout and deli containers, medicine bottles, catsup and syrup bottles.

Comes back as: Automotive battery cases, signal lights, battery cables, brooms, brushes, ice scrapers, oil funnels, bicycle racks, garden rakes, storage bins, and shipping pallets.