

# Know Your Codes!

Recycle wise. Sort smart.



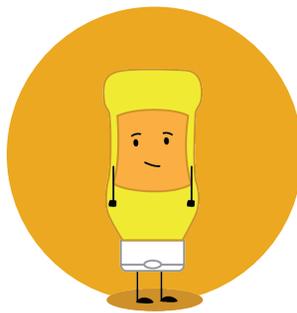
## What's up with those recycling symbols on plastic?

On most plastic bottles, containers and other packaging products you will find the universal recycling symbol of the chasing arrows triangle. Within the symbol, there is a number ranging from 1-7. Although manufacturers use the recycle symbol on their products, not all plastics are recyclable.

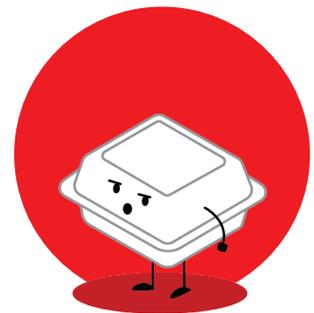
Try choosing products that are packaged in plastics labeled 1 through 5 and avoid plastics labeled 6 or 7. While plastics labeled 3, 4, or 5 are still recyclable, they are less likely to be recycled to make new products than 1s or 2s.



 GREEN = 1,2



 YELLOW = 3,4,5



 RED = 6,7

## Use the City's Waste Wizard to Solve the Riddle of Recycling Symbols

Understanding the seven plastic codes will make it easier to choose plastics that have the best chance at being recycled. Use the City's Waste Wizard at [sacrecycle.org](http://sacrecycle.org) when unsure if an item is recyclable. Simply enter the name of the item and the Waste Wizard will provide information on which bin it belongs in.

*When in doubt, throw it out. If even one item in a recycling bin is contaminated with food, the whole bin can be contaminated. This can cost the City more money so please help keep the recycle bin clean.*



**Waste Wizard**  
RECYCLE WISE. SORT SMART.

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works/RSW/waste-wizard>

## Plastics and how they're recycled

The City of Sacramento accepts most plastics 1-7. Examples of items with a recycle symbol that aren't recyclable include foam egg cartons and bread bags. Use the online Waste Wizard tool at [sacrecycle.org](http://sacrecycle.org) to get the most up-to-date answers on what is, and is not recyclable.



### Used For

Water bottles, soda bottles, common food packaging (typically anything clear).

### May become

Tote bags, carpet, polar fleece.



### Used For

Milk jugs, cleaning products, hair care products (typically opaque).

### May become

Pens, recycling containers, detergent bottles.



### Used For

Cooking oil bottles, pipes, some toys (durable).

### May become

Paneling, flooring, speed bumps.



### Used For

Squeezable bottles, shopping bags, bread bags (malleable).

### May become

Compost bins, trash cans, shipping envelopes.



### Used For

Bottle caps, buckets, plastic furniture (hard plastic and easy to color).

### May become

Brooms, auto battery cases, bins.



### Used For

Egg cartons, meat trays, disposable plates, packing peanuts, to-go containers (styrofoam).

### May become

Very difficult to recycle.



### Used For

Catch-all for miscellaneous plastic, 5-gallon water jugs (many plastics in this category contain BPA).

### May become

Difficult to recycle.