

NOT ALL PLASTICS ARE THE SAME.

This chart is a general overview of the different types of plastics that is part of our every day consumer products. The variety of plastics is because of the different consumer needs and the variety of products that are used today. For example the thickness of a soft drink bottle (PET) is much less than and not necessary for make up of mud flaps (PVC).

This chart is by no means a definitive listing of coded plastics & their uses; it is intended only to give a general overview of plastic recycling by identifying the most common types of post consumer plastics and listing some typical original and recycled products made from those plastics.

PLASTIC TYPE	ACCEPTABLE PLASTIC	RECYCLED PRODUCTS
 PET Polyethylene	Soft Drink Bottles; Peanut Butter & Mayo Jars; Mouthwash, Salad Dressing, BBQ Sauce, Ketchup Bottles; Liquid Dish Detergent Bottles; Glass Cleaner; Any Post Consumer Bottles Coded #1	Carpets; Paint Brushes; Liquid Soap Bottles; Insulation for Clothing; Surfboards; Household Cleanser Bottles; Scouring Pads; Tennis Balls
 HDPE High Density Polyethylene	Milk, Water, Juice, Vinegar Bottles; Mustard Squeeze Bottles; Some Dairy Tubs; Vitamin & Pain Reliever Bottles; Some Liquid Detergent Bottles	Detergent & Bleach Bottles; Trash Bags; Trash Cans; Pails; Toys; Plastic Lumber; Frisbees; Fly Swatters; Traffic Barriers
 PVC Polyvinyl Chloride	Shampoo Bottles; Cooking Oil Bottles; Some Cosmetic Bottles	Floor Mats; Pipes; Hoses; Mud Flaps
 LDPE Low Density Polyethylene	Food Storage Containers; Dairy Lids; Fabric Softener Bottles; Lotion & Sunscreen Tubes	Garbage Can Liners; Grocery, Litter & Convention Bags; Frisbees; Plastic Lumber; Lawn Furniture
 PP Polypropylene	Yogurt Containers; Medicine Bottles; Deli Containers; Frozen Juice Cans; Some Microwave Containers	Brooms; Snow Brushes; Paint Buckets, Video Cassette Cases; Fast Food Trays; Lawn Mower Wheels; Battery Parts; Ice Scrapers
 PS Polystyrene	Yogurt Cups & Tubs, Cookie & Muffin Trays; Clear Carry Out Containers; Aspirin & Vitamin Bottles (No Styrofoam)	Video Cassettes; Flower Pots; Trash Cans; Food Service Trays; Building Insulation; Desk Top Accessories Like Letter Openers & Rulers
 Other Other Plastic	Ketchup Squeeze Bottles; Syrup Bottles; Windex Bottles; 5-Gallon Water Cooler Bottles; Microwave Containers; Layered Plastic Containers	Ice Scrapers; Snow Brushes; Street Signs; Pens & Concrete Supports

Remember, the City of Portsmouth is now single stream recycling. This means no more sorting glass, plastics, tin & aluminum separate from paper and cardboard. It's "All Together Now!"

Styrofoam

One of the more challenging plastics to recycle

Styrofoam, is the brand name for Polystyrene, or expanded polystyrene. Polystyrene, such as trays or clam shell food containers are marked with a triangular recycling symbol and the plastic code "6". Portsmouth residents can recycle these items as part of the curbside recycling program, or bring them to the Recycling Center.

Plastic polystyrene "peanuts" used for packaging are **not** recyclable but can be reused many times.

With a little determination, you can give new life to Styrofoam packing peanuts and electronics packaging.



Instructions:

Pack up your plastic peanuts and drop them off at The Parcel Room (just around the corner from Portsmouth's Recycling Center).



Parcel Room
1500 Lafayette Rd (Market Basket Plaza)
Portsmouth, NH 03801
(P) 603-431-0085

Additional Facts & Sustainable Recommendations:

Avoid purchasing products that use polystyrene packaging.

Although plastic peanuts cannot be recycled, they can be reused over and over again.

Recycled polystyrene is used to make more of the packaging materials, as well as things like toys and office products, according to manufacturer and recycler Dart Container.

While Styrofoam clams can be recycled if they're clean, it can be tricky to find a venue that recycles this material. Recyclers can turn these foam containers into other Styrofoam products, coat hangers or other goods, notes the Alliance of Foam Packaging Recyclers. In 2008, a new machine was developed to safely (and cleanly) melt Styrofoam for recycling, which may make this material more widely accepted over time.

It's best not to let the cat play with packaging peanuts.

