



Material	Technical Name	Hot Food	Freezer Safe	Recyclable	Examples	Characteristics
PET/PETE/ CPET	Polyethylene Terephthalate	PET = NO CPET = ovenable & freezable	NO, but can do chilled	YES (recycling symbol #1)	Plastic water bottles, cake domes	PET=Flexible, durable, tough, up to 140 F CPET=between -40 and 400 degrees F
HDPE	High Density Polyethylene	NO	YES	YES (#2 recycling symbol)	Grocery bags, rigid containers like milk gallons	In bags, the plastic will crinkle when compressed
PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride	NO	YES	YES (#3 recycling symbol)	Plastic film, gloves	Chemical resistant, easy to blend, versatile
LDPE	Low Density Polyethylene	NO	YES	YES (#4 recycling symbol)	Trash can liners, freezer bags	In bags, material will stretch rather than tear, very flexible
PP	Polypropylene	YES	NO, but can do chilled	YES (#5 recycling symbol)	Straws, chicken roasters, MW containers	Most common for hot food, resist temps up to 220-240 F, many shapes
OPS/EPS	Oriented Polystyrene / Expanded Polystyrene (foamed)	OPS = NO, EPS = YES	NO, but can do chilled	YES (#6 recycling symbol) *limited*	Portion cups, domes, hinged- lids, clear but fogs unless coated	OPS/HIPS=stiff but brittle, temps up to 150 F EPS=MW, retains heat, strong, lightweight
Other		YES	YES	NO		Can be combinations or other plastics