

# Recycling Symbols



We all know that we should recycle as much as possible, but what is the product in your hand made of? Does your local recycling company accept them? This sheet is designed to help you know what the product is made of, and describes some common symbols.



The Modus Triangle is now a familiar symbol on most products.

This sheet will describe the number and the lettering under the triangle, as well as other recycling symbols.

Number in triangle	Letters underneath	Material	Found in
01	PET or PETE	Polyethylene terephthalate	Bottles involving high pressure (fizzy drinks), 'see through' plastics and carrier bags. Can be recycled into fleece jackets.
02	PEHD or HDPE	High-density polyethylene	Bottles involving normal pressure, opaque plastics (milk bottles), food trays and carrier bags.
03	PVC	Polyvinyl chloride	Window frames, water & waste pipes, older electrical cables, music records, cash/credit cards. <b>Recycling facilities limited due to high reprocessing costs.</b>
04	PELD or LDPE	Low-density polyethylene	Food trays, can-retaining rings (6-pack), carrier bags. Several versions of LDPE exist, which cannot be mixed.
05	PP	Polypropylene	Ropes, meat wrap etc in supermarkets, newer electrical cables.
06	PS	Polystyrene	Food trays/cups/cutlery, protection for larger items from damage. <b>Recycling facilities limited due to high reprocessing costs compared to weight.</b>
07	O	Other plastics	All other plastic types not listed.
09	ABS	Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene	TV / monitor cases, LEGO® bricks, kettles.
20	PAP	Cardboard	Packing cases.
21	PAP	Other paper	Envelopes, magazines.
22	PAP	Paper	Printer paper, newspaper.
23	PAP	Paperboard	Cereal boxes, birthday cards.
40	FE	Steel	'Tin' cans, biscuit tins.
41	AL	Aluminium	Drinks cans.
81		Paper & plastic	Milk cartons.
84		Paper, plastic & aluminium	Fruit juice cartons.

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Codes 60–69 (COT or TEX) are various textiles (60 Cotton, 61 Jute, others unspecified). Codes 70–79 (GL or GLS) is glass of varying grades and colours. Codes 80–99 are mixtures of materials. Two common ones are 81 and 84 as shown in the table.

## Alternative Symbols



Aluminium.



Steel.



German Symbol, but commonly seen. Cardboard that is accepted by cardboard recyclers.



**European Ecolabel.** The label indicates 'rigorous environmental criteria and proper fitness for use', but it does not necessarily mean that a product contains any recycled content.



**The Soil Association Organic Standard.** Certifies the product is of a standard set down by the Soil Association.



Shows that a product must be disposed of separately from other household waste, under the WEEE (Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment) directive.



Do not litter. Suggests that the item should be disposed of carefully and thoughtfully.



The FSC logo identifies products that contain wood from well-managed forests independently certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council.



The 'Green Dot' shows that the manufacturer has made a contribution to the recycling of packaging. **It does not necessarily mean the product can be recycled.**