

COMMON PLASTIC POLYMERS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED MONOMERS



	POLYMER	COMMON EXAMPLES	MONOMER	MONOMER HAZARD?
1	PET, PETE	Polyethylene Terephthalate (Polyester)	soft drink bottle, yogurt cup, vegetable tray, shampoo bottle, plastic tea bags, polar fleece textile fabric	Terephthalic acid + ethylene glycol
2	HDPE	High-Density Polyethylene	drinking water pipes, cutting board, refillable drinking bottle, yogurt drink bottle, trash bag / bin liner, shower gel bottle	Ethylene
3	PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride	artificial leather, bath tub squirt toys, inflatable bathing ring, tablecloth, drinking water pipes, flooring, cling wrap, pond liner	Vinyl chloride Carcinogen
4	LDPE	Low-Density Polyethylene	cling wrap, trash bag / bin liner, lemon juice bottle, plastic wrap, freezer bag, hair conditioner bottle	Ethylene
5	PP	Polypropylene	foldable water container, thermal undergarments, ground water pipes, refillable drinking bottle, yogurt cup, gummy candy packaging	Propylene
6	PS	Polystyrene	styrofoam cup, yogurt cup, fruit and vegetable tray	Styrene Probable carcinogen; suspected reproductive toxicant
7	OTHER	Other		
*	PC	Polycarbonate	baby bottles, electronics enclosures, compact discs	Bisphenol A Bisphenol S Endocrine disruptor Endocrine disruptor
*	PUR	Polyurethane	artificial leather, foam mattress, scouring pad, kids bath sponge, shower slippers	Isocyanate + polyol Isocyanates: inhalation hazard
*	PTFE	Polytetrafluoroethylene (Teflon)	nonstick baking sheet liner; nonstick cookware; some breathable water-repellent materials like Gore-Tex	Tetrafluoroethylene Probably carcinogen
		Polyamide (Nylon)	"plastic" tea bags; clothing	(Various)
*	ABS	Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene	drinking water pipes, electronics enclosures, 3d-printed objects	Acrylonitrile, butadiene, styrene Acrylonitrile: possible carcinogen; butadiene: known carcinogen; styrene: suspected carcinogen
*	PLA	Poly lactide	yogurt cup, coffee cup lid, shampoo bottle, vegetable tray, 3d-printed objects	Lactic acid
*	NITRILE	Acrylonitrile butadiene rubber	non-latex gloves	Acrylonitrile, butadiene Acrylonitrile: possible carcinogen; butadiene: known carcinogen

* may be numbered "7 OTHER", but often not numbered for recycling

VISIT HEAL'S REPORT 'TURNING THE PLASTIC TIDE: THE CHEMICALS IN PLASTIC THAT PUT OUR HEALTH AT RISK' FOR MORE INFORMATION



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