

Recycling symbols provide guidelines for sorting



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When it comes to recycling, some plastics just don't mix. The reason for this is the chemical constituents of the plastics themselves. To give plastics unique properties, such as flexibility, manufacturers use a variety of chemical recipes. The chemicals used in one type of plastic are often incompatible with those used in other types. For recycling to work, plastics streams must contain either a single material, or a mixture of materials that are known to be compatible.

To help enable local recycling, manufacturers are beginning to stamp symbols on their plastic parts and packaging. Kodak, for example, places these symbols on our plastic flip-top color negative film boxes and our new print film cores. You may also see these labels on our consumer products, such as one-time-use cameras.

When feasible, Kodak uses the international plastic marking standard, ISO11469, for mechanical parts. For regulatory reasons, the Society of Plastics

Industry (SPI) labeling scheme is used for some packaging materials such as rigid plastic containers. Here is a sample listing of some of the plastic identifiers in use:

Material	ISO 11469 Symbol	SPI Resin Number
Polyethylene terephthalate	>PET<	1
High-density polyethylene	>HDPE<	2
Vinyl/polyvinyl chloride	>PVC<	3
Low-density polyethylene	>LDPE<	4
Polypropylene	>PP<	5
Polystyrene	>PS<	6
Other	-	7
High Impact Polystyrene	>HIPS<	-
Polybutylene terephthalate	>PBT<	-

Although recycling of metals has been common for many years, plastics recycling is a relatively new endeavor. The good news is that it's becoming more widespread, so it's likely there is a recycler in your community. Try your local business telephone directory or do an Internet search on "plastics recycling" to identify plastics recyclers or brokers in your area. ■