

## PLASTIC MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION CODES



**PET** – Polyethylene Terephthalate is a strong transparent plastic with good gas barrier properties. Popular product examples are jars, Salad containers, domes, punnets, biscuit trays, glasses, bottles. PET products can be re-used and are recyclable.



**HDPE** – High Density Polyethylene is a strong translucent plastic which makes it popular for milk and juice bottles, and a high tensile strength which makes it popular for vest type carrier bags, even at low microns. It is an inert material and does not react easily with the contents.



**PVC** – Polyvinyl Chloride is never used on its own and the material is a combination of additives. Has a limited use in clear bottles and jars, blister and food packaging, inserts and tubs.



**LDPE** – Low Density Polyethylene is a very good material for flexible packaging as it is the plastic material with the highest impact strength. It is an inert material and will not react with contents. It is used for food application films, domestic cling film, stretch wrap, shrink wrap, bags, tubes and many other products.



**PP** – Polypropylene is a strong and light plastic with a high melting point. It is a plastic that has a high variety of applications and with its heat resistant capability it is often used in hot filling and microwave applications. PP is an inert material and will not react with the contents. It retains its stiffness at low thicknesses making it a popular packaging material in this wall applications such as straws, glasses and take away food tubs. Used also for yoghurt and margarine tubs, ice cream containers and many more.



**PS** – Polystyrene comes in many different formats. Expanded polystyrene is used for its insulative properties, stiffness and cost effectiveness, examples being foam cups and foam take away containers, meat and vegetable trays.