

How to Identify Different Varieties of Plastics

Plastics are identified by *SPI codes*. SPI codes are symbols generally found on the undersides of plastic materials. The symbols are a number inside a triangle looking similar to the following pictures:



Identifying different varieties of plastics can be very confusing. The numbers range 1-7, and each number can have multiple types. Currently, Total Reclaim is only accepting the types of plastics that can be recycled at the Anchorage Recycling Center.

Total Reclaim is accepting the following types of plastic:

- Clean #1 bottles without caps (i.e. sport drink bottles, water bottles, juice bottles).
 - *The item must be a #1 bottle.* Other #1 plastic exist, but Total Reclaim can only accept bottles. Check for a neck. If the plastic closes towards the mouth, then it is a bottle. All other #1 plastics are not acceptable.



Examples of #1 bottles. Caps *cannot* be recycled with the bottles. Plastics #1 containers are also *not* recyclable in Anchorage.

- Clean #2 jugs without caps (i.e. detergent jugs, milk jugs, water jugs)
 - The item must be a #2 bottle. Other #2 plastic exist, but Total Reclaim can only accept bottles. Again, check for a neck. If the plastic closes towards the mouth, then it is a jug. All other #2 plastics are not acceptable.



- Clean Plastic film that easily stretches (i.e. stretch wrap, bubble wrap, zip-lock bags)



#1 Bottles

- 1) Remove all caps (unfortunately, caps are not recyclable in Anchorage).



- 2) Check for the neck. Be certain that the item is a bottle or jug. The item should taper and close toward the opening. #1 containers are not recyclable in Anchorage.

Visible neck

Bottled is tapered toward the mouth.



The SPI code can be seen here on the bottom of the bottle.

- 3) Rinse out the bottle thoroughly. Be sure to get out any excess residue. *Do not* recycle bottles that contained harsh chemicals, hazardous materials, or automotive products.
- 4) Crush the bottle to save space.
- 5) Place in a large, thick, clear plastic bag for transport. Be sure that the bag is clearly marked “#1 bottles.”
- 6) Be sure to completely fill the bag before shipping.

#2 Jugs

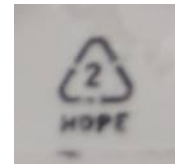
- 1) Remove all caps (unfortunately, caps are not recyclable in Anchorage).



- 2) Check for the neck. Be certain that the item is a *bottle* or *jug*. The item should taper and close toward the opening. #2 containers are not recyclable in Anchorage.



#2 plastic



Also a #2 plastic

Visible neck

Bottle is tapered toward the mouth.



No neck

Bottle is the same width all the way through.



This milk jug is recyclable

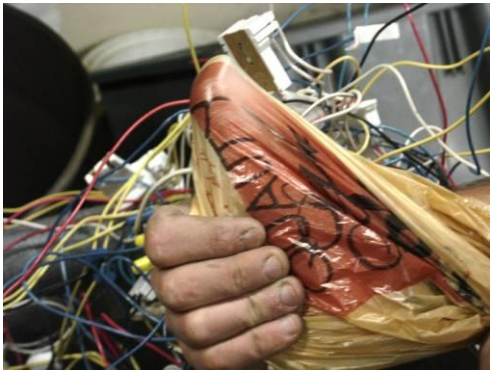


This juice container is *not* recyclable

- 3) Rinse out the jug thoroughly. Be sure to get out any excess residue. *Do not* recycle bottles that contained harsh chemicals, hazardous materials, or automotive products.
- 4) Crush the jug to save space.
- 5) Place in a large, thick, clear plastic bag for transport. Be sure that the bag is clearly marked “#2 jugs.”
- 6) Be sure to completely fill the bag before shipping.

Film that Stretches

- 1) Test the film to see if it stretches easily. The thumb test (see photos below) is a reliable method of checking if a plastic film is recyclable.



If your thumb easily stretches the film, then it is recyclable.



If your thumb can't stretch the film or quickly breaks through, then the film is not recyclable in Anchorage.

- 2) Place stretchy film in a large, thick, clear plastic bag for transport.
- 3) Be sure to completely fill the bag before shipping.

Plastic recycling can be confusing. Time and practice are needed to become proficient at recycling plastics. If you have any questions or you're not sure if a certain plastic is recyclable, please contact Total Reclaim by calling (907) 561-0544 or e-mailing - akoutreach@totalreclaim.com.

Ship to address:

Total Reclaim Inc.
12101 Industry Way, Unit C-4
Anchorage, AK 99515