

PERFECTING PLASTICS

The trick to recycling right is knowing what plastic you are using, and just like tacos there are two types — hard and soft!

What type of plastics are there?

Hard plastics

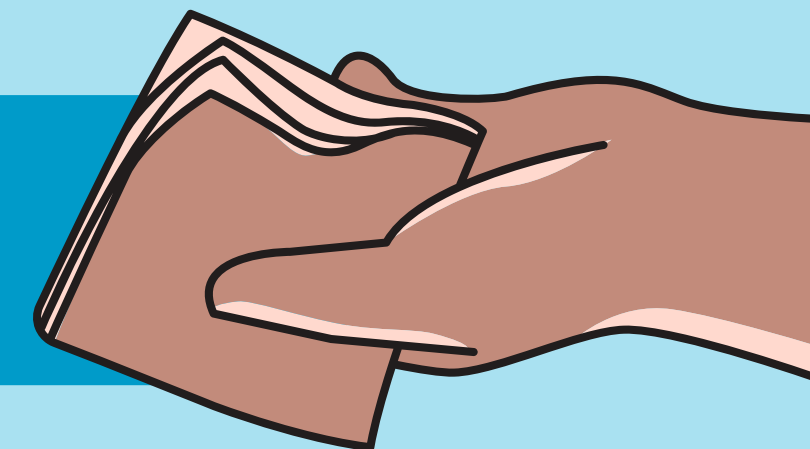
Hard plastics are used to store food, drink and most toiletry products. If the plastic is molded, tough or strong, it is a hard plastic.

Soft plastics

Soft plastics are mostly used for packaging food products. If the plastic is thin and flexible, it is a soft plastic.

How can I test the difference?

A quick and easy way to test whether you have a hard or soft plastic is the 'scrunch test'. If you can scrunch the item into a ball, it is a soft plastic. If you can't scrunch it up, it is a hard plastic.



Can it go in my recycling bin?

YES

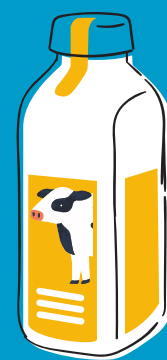
Most hard plastics **can** be recycled, **except** for meat trays, polystyrene* and disposable coffee cups. Some hard plastics you **can** recycle are:



Soft drink bottles



Toiletry bottles



Plastic milk jugs

NO

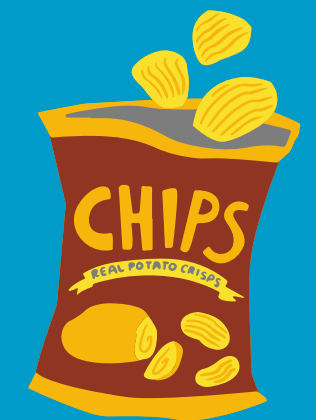
Soft plastics **cannot** be put in your recycling bin, but they **can** be dropped off at REDcycle bins at any major supermarket. Some soft plastics are:



Lolly bags



Sandwich bags



Chip packets

* Polystyrene is a lightweight foam material that is used to make some takeaway containers and packaging, which are difficult to recycle and shouldn't be put in your recycling.