








Guide to Plastics #1 - #7

Tuscola County Recycling only accepts bottle shaped #1 and #2 plastics. The term "Bottle Shapes" refers to any plastic container, which is in the shape of a bottle. In other words, the neck of the container is slimmer than the rest of the body of the bottle. Tuscola County Recycling also accepts plastics shopping bags (#4) and polystyrene (#6). Please refer to the list below.

Identity Code	Abbreviation & Name	Recyclability	Some Common Products	Commonly Reused in these Recycled-Content Products	Commonly Unmarked Materials
 PETE	PET or PETE Polyethylene terephthalate	<p>#1 bottle shapes* are generally accepted in Michigan recycling programs. Please remove caps and lids.</p> <p>Non-bottle shapes of #1 PET are <i>not currently accepted</i> in Tuscola County.</p>	Plastic beverage containers including soft drink, water, juice bottles mouthwash bottles peanut butter containers salad dressing containers	Food and beverage containers bottles clothing fleece wear furniture carpet luggage polyester	Fiber for carpet, fleece jackets, comforter fill, and tote bags. Plastic food and non-food containers. Film and sheet. Strapping.
 HDPE	HDPE High-Density polyethylene	<p>#2 bottle shapes* are generally accepted in Michigan recycling programs. Please remove caps & lids. Empty, clean and dry #2 bottles only.</p>	Bottles including milk, water, juice, cosmetic, shampoo, dish and laundry detergent	Bottles, including liquid laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner, vitamin & motor oil bottles; pipes, buckets, crates, flower pots, garden edging, film and sheet, floor tiles, picnic tables, plastic lumber, mailbox posts, fencing	Cereal box liners Plastic lumber for outdoor decking, fencing and picnic tables. Pipe, floor tiles, buckets, crates, flower pots, garden edging, film and sheet, recycling bins
 V	V or PVC Polyvinyl chloride	<p>Currently no recycling programs in Tuscola County.</p> <p>NOT easily recyclable in traditional recycling systems. Just one #3 PVC bottle will contaminate an entire half-ton load of water bottles for recycling.</p> <p>Requires a processing plant that has infrared automated sorting. Always double-check your recycler's requirements</p>	Plastic toys, some clear food packaging, medical tubing, wire and cable insulation	Traffic cones, garden hoses	Mud flaps, cassette trays, electrical boxes, cables, traffic cones, and garden hose.

		before adding any #3 items.			
	LDPE Low-Density polyethylene	All #4 plastic bags of any shape, size or color are accepted in Tuscola County.	Shrink Wrap, Greenhouse film, Plastic Shopping bags, Dry-Cleaning Plastic, bread bags, paper towel/toilet paper/etc. packaging	Shipping envelopes	Shrink-wrap Greenhouse Film Garbage can liners
	PP Polypropylene	Currently no recycling programs in Tuscola County.	Prescription Medicine Bottles, ketchup bottles, some yogurt containers, some margarine (or similar) tubs	Automobile battery cases, oil funnels, landscape borders	Oil funnels, garden rakes
	PS Polystyrene	All #6 Polystyrene of any shape, size or color is accepted in Tuscola County.	All Styrofoam, egg cartons, restaurant carryout boxes, plates/cups, etc.	Some light switch plates, Styrofoam containers/cups/plates	Thermal insulation, light switch plates, license plate frames, egg cartons, packing peanuts
	OTHER Any Other Plastics	Currently no recycling programs in Tuscola County The unknown mixture of #7 plastic resins makes it difficult to recycle it Can contain PVC, PLA, BPA (the endocrine disruptor), etc., or just layers of #5 PP and nylon or rayon.	Nalgene bottles, CDs and some food product containers	Reusable plastic beverage bottles	Some bottles and plastic lumber applications

Some information obtained from American Chemical Council. Special thanks to Washtenaw County!

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