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November 2014 EcoFacts



Know your Plastics



Plastic #2

HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) is translucent and relatively stiff, and its strong barrier and chemical resistance properties make it good for milk jugs, shopping bags, household cleaner bottles and more. In the US, 28% of HDPE was recycled in 2012, and made into plastic lumber, buckets, crates, bottles for shampoo, detergents, motor oil, and more.

- Most shopping bags are made of HDPE because it can hold up to 2,000 times its own weight.
- Demand for shopping bags exceeds supply, but most curbside recyclers don't take plastic bags, as they get caught in the sorting equipment. So remember to recycle your bags at the grocery store!
- Recycling 1 ton of plastic bags can save 11 barrels of oil.

