

Distinguishing the recycling symbol from plastic codes

It is easy to get confused about what can be recycled especially when the symbols on plastics look very similar to the recycling symbol.

Using the recycling symbol (mobius loop)

The recycling symbol or 'mobius loop' consists of three twisted chasing arrows in a triangle. No one 'owns' the mobius loop, however there are guidelines regarding its use.

The mobius loop shows that a product is either recyclable or made from a percentage of recycled materials. Common recycling symbols (can vary in colour):



Plastic coding system

The plastic coding system is a series of symbols that identify the most common plastic material used in the manufacture of a product or packaging. The symbols are usually embossed on the bottom of plastic containers and bottles. Their purpose is to assist collectors with sorting the collected plastics by material type. They do not necessarily indicate that the product can be recycled or is made from recycled content.

Each symbol in the Plastics Coding System consists of a number from 1 to 7 inside a chasing arrows triangle. The letters underneath the symbols are optional. Most Councils now take 1-5 plastics in their kerbside recycling bins.



<http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/www/html/1941-recycling-symbol-mobius-loop.asp>