

---

November 2023



Issue 11

---

## The scoop of the day

### November marks the end of Daylight Saving Time

Turn your clocks back on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Did you know that Daylight Saving Time has been around for over a hundred years? Port Arthur, Ontario, Canada was the first city in the world to enact Daylight Saving Time on July 1, 1908.

It is a common myth in the United States that DST was first implemented for the benefit of farmers. In reality, farmers have been one of the strongest lobbying groups against DST since it was first implemented. The factors that influence farming schedules, such as morning dew and dairy cattle's readiness to be milked, are ultimately dictated by the sun, so the clock change introduces unnecessary challenges.



## KING TIDES

We are expecting two periods of King Tides in November.

**Oct 30- Nov 3 and Nov 12-19**

While some roadway flooding is expected, please report impassable roads to our Customer Service Center at 954-828-8000. For additional information on king tides, [read a message from Mayor Dean J. Trantalis](#) related to the 2023 season.

For more information on how the city is taking steps to address high tides and king tides, please follow the link. <https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/government/departments-a-h/city-manager-s-office/strategic-communications/king-tides>

---



# Recycling Symbols and Their Meaning

We've all seen the numbers on the recycling symbol, but what do they mean and is it really recyclable? Read below to find out.

## Polyethylene Terephthalate (No. 1 PETE / PET)



Whether you realize it or not, you probably consume a lot of PETE (also called PET) plastics. PETE is a clear, strong, and lightweight plastic that's usually used for single-use food and drink packaging, like soda and water bottles, salad dressing bottles, and peanut butter containers. Recycling PETE bottles and jars can create new plastic containers, furniture, carpet fibers, and winter jackets.

Polyethylene terephthalate is fully recyclable and the most common plastic in circulation. Yet, the U.S. recycling rate for it is only [around 30%](#) each year. **These plastics, branded with a '1', are widely accepted by most curbside recycling programs. Just rinse out any food residue and dry the items before placing in your bin or business's dumpster!**

## High-Density Polyethylene (No. 2 HDPE)



HDPE is another common type of plastic found in many household products like milk jugs, cleaning containers, and shampoo and detergent bottles. HDPE is ideal for these types of consumer products because it's lightweight but durable. These products are commonly recycled into pens, toys, engineered lumber, outdoor furniture, and traffic cones.

HDPE is easy to recycle, and [according to recent studies](#), can be recycled up to 10 times for new products. **'2' containers are typically accepted in most curbside recycling programs, and as with all recycling, you should ensure they're clean, rinsed, and dry before tossing to prevent contamination.**

## Polyvinyl Chloride (No. 3 PVC or V)



Polyvinyl chloride, commonly referred to as "vinyl" or "PVC," is very versatile and usually found in piping, medical equipment, plastic gloves, building products, water-resistant clothing, and some food packaging. Vinyl is ideal for these types of products because of its strong, durable, and flexible properties. When recycled, vinyl is used to make binders, window frames, gutters, flooring, and fencing.

Polyvinyl chloride contains hazardous chemicals that are known to be [poisonous to humans](#). Because of its many chemical additives, vinyl/PVC products are *extremely* difficult to recycle and are not commonly accepted through curbside recycling, explaining the 0.5% recycling rate. **Instead, reuse or repurpose '3' plastics, as they're long-lasting and durable. Or, check with your waste hauler to learn about nearby drop-off recycling centers.**

## Low-Density Polyethylene (No. 4 LDPE)



LDPE is best known for its use in shopping bags, squeezable bottles, furniture, clothing, and frozen food packaging. Its flexibility and low weight makes it convenient for packaging purposes but extremely difficult to recycle at most facilities (more on that below). When recycled, LDPE creates compost bins, paneling, trash can liners, floor tiles and shipping envelopes.

The same qualities that make LDPE useful for bags and six-pack rings make it difficult to recycle, frequently jamming or damaging recycling equipment. **Do not recycle LDPE curbside or in your commingled dumpster. As a preferred route, many retail stores are equipped with drop-off boxes, or you can look up nearby recycling centers that accept them.**

## Polypropylene (No. 5 PP)



Polypropylene is rigid, tough, and resistant to moisture, grease, and chemicals. This type of plastic is commonly used for ketchup bottles, kitchen containers, straws, carpets, rope, and medicine bottles. When recycled, these products can create landscaping border stripping, brooms, bins, trays, and much more.

Polypropylene had been a commonly accepted plastic for most curbside recycling programs until 2018, when China stopped buying America's recyclable waste. Now, the market for PP is considerably smaller, meaning many haulers have discontinued their programs. **Confirm its acceptance with your service provider before recycling. If not, you can explore mail-in services like Gimme 5.**

## Polystyrene (No. 6 PS)



Polystyrene, often genericized "Styrofoam" in the U.S., is incredibly lightweight and commonly disposed of after a single use. It's usually found in egg cartons, Styrofoam packaging, packing peanuts, disposable cups, and dinnerware. Polystyrene is inexpensive and easily produced, which makes it popular for manufacturing, but it's difficult and inefficient to recycle.

Currently, polystyrene makes up about 35% of waste in U.S. landfills, and worse, it's believed it takes one million years to decompose in a landfill, if ever. **Polystyrene is rejected by nearly every curbside recycler, but there may be a business near you that collects it.** The best course of action, however, is to avoid it—and we have some tips for using durable alternatives!

## "OTHER" (No. 7)



"Other" refers to a miscellaneous category for all the plastics that didn't fit into the other six categories. Fiberglass, polycarbonate, plexiglass, nylon and acrylics fabrics—you name it. Common products under the '7' symbol include baby bottles, sunglasses, water cooler bottles, DVDs, and sports equipment.

"Other" plastics like polycarbonate often contain BPA and LEXAN, which can be very harmful to human health if improperly disposed of. **For those reasons, these products are not accepted curbside but are sometimes accepted by drop-off centers or mail-in programs.**