HERWINNING VAN PLASTIEK: Nie alle tipes plastiek kan herwin word nie – kyk na hierdie handige gids oor wat herwin kan word en wat nie:

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KNOW YOUR TRIANGLES

Knowing the Resin ID (triangle numbers) and what they stand for are pivotal when recycling. Putting the wrong kind of plastic in the recycling bin could mean inefficient recycling.

PETE or sometimes known as PET is Polyethylene terephthalate. This is the first triangle symbol and also the most common. PETE plastics are often cooldrink or water bottles. These plastics are easiest to recycle.

HDPE stands for High-density polyethylene. This means that its a slightly hard kind of plastic. The second triangle. Most HDPE plastics are opaque unlike the clear PETE plastics. HDPE is common among milk bottles, grocery bags (the firmer reusable ones) and plastic playground equipment.

PVC -Polyvinyl chloride or sometimes known as V -vinyl, are often known seen as the worst plastic created by man. Very difficult to recycle and takes generations to degrade naturally. most recyclers refuse to recycle PVC plastics. It is common in Piping, lawn tables and chairs and fencing. PVC or V is the third triangle.
LDPE - **Low density polyethylene is the forth triangle in the series.** Complete opposite to HDPE. LDPE is a very cheap plastic, but also very difficult to recycle. This plastic is very acid resistant and often used in laboratories. Its main use is a food container. LDPE is very common in yogurt cups, plastic bags (the flimsy kind) tubing and laboratory equipment.

**PP or polypropylene.** This is a very hard and very durable plastic. Just like PVC it is also a bit hard to recycle and can take many years to bio-degrade. Examples of PP plastics are the top ends of Tic Tac canisters, plastic crates and DVD covers. Triangle number five.

**PS - polystyrene.** These are the packaging masters of the plastic world. Polystyrene takes many years to degrade naturally but it can be reused and recycled. Often lightweight and cheap, these plastics can be recycled into rigid foam insulation. The most common form is the styrofoam cup. The problem with PS cups are that they are often thrown away and left at the landfills, where they may never degrade. Resin ID number six.

**Other - the worst plastic there is.** Recyclers do not accept any plastics with the Resin ID number seven. The reason being is that these plastics are made up from the various plastics above and cannot be broken down at all. Avoid purchasing these plastics. Some examples include nylon zippers, nylon stockings, fiberglass, acrylic and car headlight lenses.