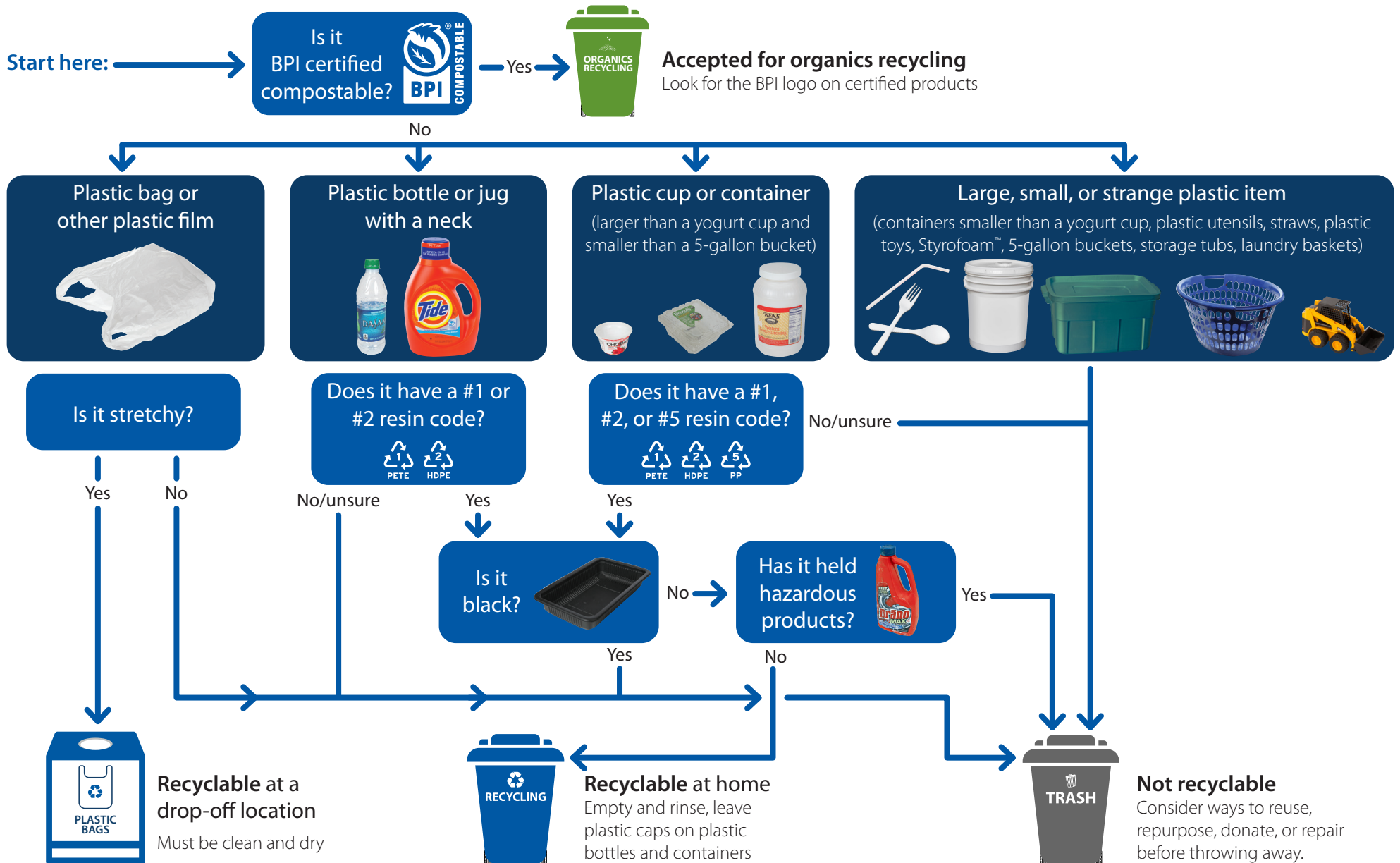


Is it recyclable? Plastics decision tree

Use this decision tree to help determine if a plastic item is recyclable. This is a guide only: if you're not sure or get stuck, "when in doubt, throw it out!" to prevent contamination in the recycling.



Frequently asked questions

1. **Is black plastic recyclable?** Black plastic is not recyclable because it cannot be sorted correctly at a recycling facility and has poor resale markets.
2. **Is plastic film recyclable?** Plastic film should not go in your curbside bin because it gets caught in sorting equipment at recycling facilities. Certain types of plastic film can be recycled separately if it is dry and clean. Visit BagandFilmRecycling.org for more information.
3. **What items are too small or too large to recycle?** Examples of items too small to recycle include utensils, straws, condiment cups, and small medicine bottles. Items this small cannot be sorted properly and can get into other recycling streams. Examples of items that are too large to recycle include five-gallon buckets, storage tubs, laundry baskets, and lawn furniture. Items that are too large can damage the sorting equipment.
4. **What is a resin code?** A resin code is the number usually found on the bottom of a plastic container that indicates the type of plastic the item is made from. It does not indicate if an item is recyclable. If you cannot find the resin code, throw the item away.
5. **How clean do plastic items need to be in order to recycle them?** Items do not need to be perfectly clean but should have minimal food residue. To prepare your recycling, remove pumps or nozzles, empty and rinse containers, and replace plastic caps on bottles and jugs.
6. **Are compostable plastics accepted in organics recycling?** In Hennepin County, compostable plastics must be BPI certified (Biodegradable Products Institute) to be accepted in the organics recycling. To tell if something is BPI certified, look for the BPI symbol and the phrase "certified compostable." You can also search the BPI website at products.bpiworld.org for the item. Visit hennepin.us/organics to learn more.