

# KITCHEN TOOLS:

## TYPES OF PLASTIC USED AROUND THE KITCHEN

Plastic is one of the most useful and widely used manufacturing materials since its conception in 1907. In the kitchen, plastic can be seen in a variety of products and tools thanks to the different kinds of plastics that are available for use.



### PET OR PETE (POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE ETHYLENE)

Polyethylene terephthalate is a lightweight plastic that is commonly used for food and beverage packaging thanks to its semi-rigid or rigid structure. It is the most common thermoplastic polymer.

PET is used for soda and water bottles, baking products, peanut butter jars and even in frozen food packaging.



### HDPE (HIGH-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE)

HDPE is widely used for the production of bottles. It has an optimal strength-to-weight ratio. A good example is milk containers. While it only weighs 2 ounces, it can carry a gallon of milk.



### PVC (POLYVINYL CHLORIDE)

PVC is the third most-produced synthetic thermoplastic polymer in the world. Its properties include comparative biological & chemical resistance and physical flexibility. It is mostly used for packaging, plastic wrap, and food containers.



### LDPE (LOW-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE)

Generated through a high-pressure method, LDPE is thinner than other resins. However, it can still maintain a high resilience to heat.

Due to its strength and flexibility, it is also commonly used in food packaging. Specific examples include coffee can lids, six-pack can rings, and reusable containers.



### PP (POLYPROPYLENE)

Polypropylene has a chemical makeup that provides various advantages in terms of kitchen products. It has a high melting point, making it good for many microwave-safe containers. These qualities make it perfect for products such as yogurt, condiments, and baby food containers.



### PS (POLYSTYRENE)

Polystyrene is a naturally colorless, hard plastic that can be made into foam or cast into molds for a specific product. Common kitchen products include plastic spoons, forks, egg cartons, and even the iconic red solo cup.



### OTHER (AN ALL-ENCOMPASSING CATEGORY)

"Other" means that the product was made with a different kind of plastic resin. Similar to the other types on this list, it manifests in your kitchen in the form of food and beverage packaging.

### KEY TAKEAWAY

While most uses of plastic in the kitchen are similar in nature, there are still instances where one type is preferable over the others. One thing is for sure, you can always find a type of plastic that will suit your needs in the kitchen.



RICHFIELDS

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