

**Earth Out Loud**  
**Recycle This!**  
**Activity: 5 minutes**

**Plastic Scavenger Hunt**

Have you ever noticed these symbols on plastic containers?



Plastic is made from oil and chemicals. We use thousands of different kinds of plastic to make everything from garbage bags, to fleece, to cell phones. **Resin Identification Codes** (RICs) show what kind of plastic an item is made from and how it should be recycled. *Resin* is the liquid form of plastic, before it is molded into its final form.

Try a scavenger hunt to see which RIC numbers you can find in your house or classroom. As you search, do you notice anything about the different kinds of plastic?

# 1 and # 2	Easy to find! Look for #1 and #2 on disposable water and soda bottles, milk jugs, detergent jugs, juice bottles, squeeze bottles.
# 3	Hard to find. #3 is used for plastic wrap, plastic toys and some containers; try looking for a code on shampoo or cooking oil bottles.
# 4	#4 is found on thin, flexible plastic like grocery bags, frozen food bags and bread bags.
# 5	#5 is used for straws and disposable diapers. Look for codes on yogurt tubs and lids and on clear, re-usable food storage containers.
# 6	In one form, #6 plastic is called Styrofoam. Look for codes on coffee cups, egg cartons and meat trays. #6 can also be found on some clear drink cups.
# 7	Hard to find. #7 is made from plastic that is NOT #1 - #6, or is made from more than one kind of plastic. #7 is used for sunglasses, DVDs, and ipods; try looking for a code on a 5-gallon container from a water cooler.