



THE

# RecyCool PLANET

The Official RecyCool Club Publication

Summer Edition

## Greetings!

Hello RecyCool Club friends! I am SO excited that summer is finally here! I love this time of the year because there are so many fun things to do and even better . . . no homework!

I'm sure that all of you RecyCoolers have favorite things that you like to do during the summer. Maybe you like to go swimming, play at the beach or go camping. As for myself, I love going to baseball games, playing in the park with my friends, riding my skateboard and doing anything I can to help save the Planet Earth!

For instance, when I am at the park and see an empty bottle or can on the ground, do you know what I do with it? Put it in the recycling bin, of course! Or, sometimes I take it to the recycling center and I get money in return! Can you believe that? Why would anyone throw away their bottles and cans when it is so easy and fun to recycle them?

Not only is it easy and fun, but you can get cash for doing it. You can't beat that! I can always use extra money, especially in the summertime. One of my favorite summer treats is ice cream and that extra money sure does come in handy on those hot days!

But do you know what the best thing about recycling is? When you recycle your bottles and cans, you are doing your part to help protect our wonderful planet. You see, when you recycle things instead of throwing them away, you are helping to conserve the Earth's natural resources and save energy. That's something that each and every one of us should be doing. After all, this is the only planet we have, so we better take care of it!

I'm sure that like me, you drink a lot of extra water, juice and sports drinks during the summer, especially when you are playing outside. After you finish with your drink, remember to always recycle your empty bottle

or can. You can also teach your friends and family about recycling and remind them that it's never recy"cool" to put your bottles and cans in the trash.

To all my RecyCoolers who have been doing their part by recycling all of their bottles and cans—keep up the good work! You are making our planet a better and cleaner place to live. I want to wish everyone a safe and fun summer and remember. . . recycle where you live, learn and play!

Recycle  
Rex

Coming  
Soon!

[recyclerex.com](http://recyclerex.com)

## HIDDEN PLASTIC BOTTLE GAME

Hey Beach Combers! Your friend Rex needs your help. He needs to find all 10 of the plastic bottles hidden in this picture so that he can take them to the recycling center. Be a Recycling Detective and see how many you can find!



# Create Your own Bottle Art T-shirt

Here's a fun and creative way to recycle your used plastic soda and water bottles!

## What You Will Need:

- Plain t-shirt
- Empty 16 oz. plastic soda or water bottle with cap
- Small piece of cardboard
- Pencil with eraser
- Plastic or paper plates
- Fabric or acrylic paints

## Directions:

1. Insert the piece of cardboard inside the t-shirt. This will prevent the paint from transferring from one side of the shirt to the other.
2. Pour some paint onto your paper or plastic plates. Start with two or three of your favorite colors.
3. Take your empty soda bottle and dip the bottom of the bottle into the paint. Make sure you cover the bottom of the bottle completely. Now, press the bottom of the bottle firmly onto the t-shirt to create a flower shape.




4. Use the bottle cap to create the center of the flower. Dip the cap into a different color paint and then press the cap into the middle of your flower design.

5. Use the pencil eraser to create leaves or stems for your flowers. Repeat this process until you have as many flowers as you would like. You can use several different colors of paint to create a rainbow of flower colors!

Get creative and make other shapes with your bottle, such as animals, stars or other cool designs. You can also decorate socks, baseball caps or scarves and make fun presents for your friends and family members. Remember, when you use your imagination, anything is possible!

## Fantastic Plastic!

Have you ever heard of PETE plastic? A lot of things that we use are made out of PETE plastic, but many people don't understand what that means. PETE stands for polyethylene terephthalate, which is a plastic resin and a form of polyester. If you see the  code on the bottom of a plastic bottle or container, it means that the packaging is made out of PETE plastic. It is mostly used to package soft drinks, water, juice, peanut butter and household cleaners. PETE is a good choice for packaging because it is inexpensive, lightweight, shatter-resistant, resealable and best of all, recyclable! Now when someone asks you what PETE stands for, you know exactly what to tell them!



## Congratulations

to all the RecyCool Club Graduates!

If this is the fourth newsletter you've received from me, you've officially graduated from my RecyCool Club! You can continue to learn about recycling, reducing, reusing and closing the loop on my website: [www.conservation.ca.gov](http://www.conservation.ca.gov) look for the "Kids Only" section. Please remember to recycle where you live, learn and play!

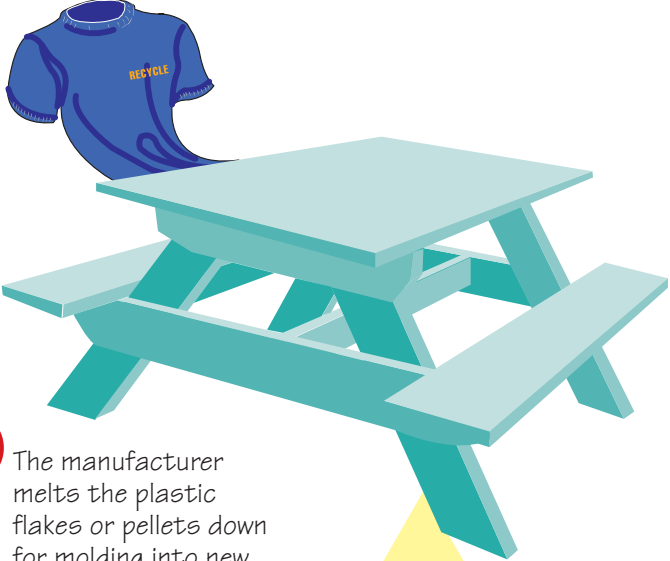
## Interesting Facts About Plastic:

- The PET bottle was patented by Nathaniel Wyeth in 1973.
- The first PETE bottle was recycled in 1977.
- Recycling a ton of PETE containers can save 7.4 cubic yards of landfill space.
- Recycled PETE can be used to make many new products such as carpet, fabric for T-shirts, shoes, sweaters and coats, luggage, fiberfill for sleeping bags and even toys!
- Some companies are now using recycled plastic beverage containers to build skateboard parks. By making ramps, pipes and decks out of recycled beverage containers, the structures are safer and last longer than those made out of wood or concrete.

# How Plastic is Recycled

1

Plastic containers are brought to the recycling center where they are sorted by type and sometimes color. They are crushed together and formed into a huge cube or bale.



5

The manufacturer melts the plastic flakes or pellets down for molding into new products like:

- fiberfill for sleeping bags
- plastic lumber
- containers for non-food products
- toys
- compost bins
- rulers
- T-shirts
- backpacks



2

The bales of plastic are shipped to a plastics processing plant.



4

The flakes or pellets are shipped to manufacturers of plastic goods.

3

The plastic is broken apart and shredded into flakes or pellets and then cleaned.



RECYCLE

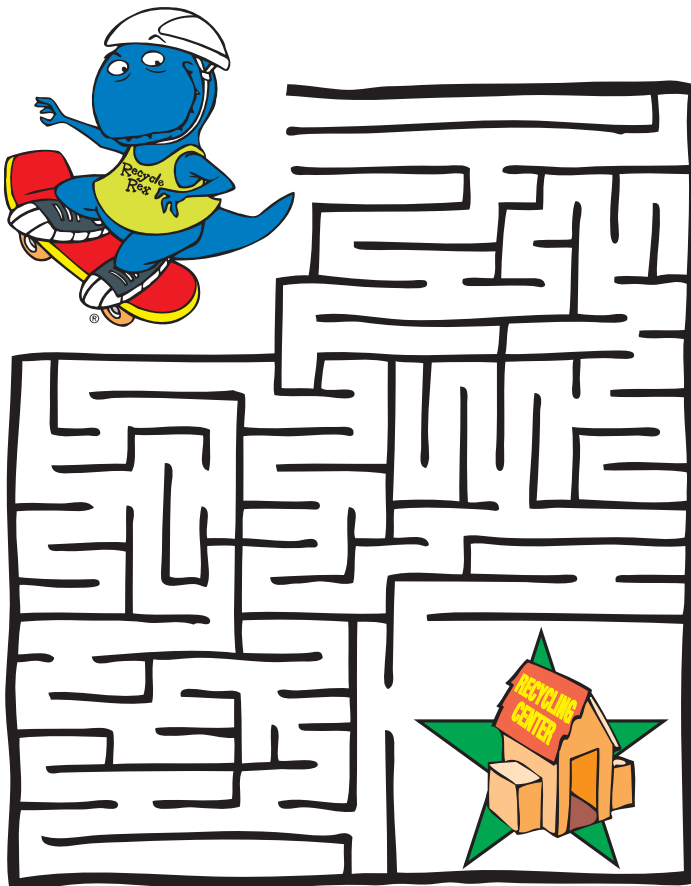
Department of Conservation • Division of Recycling  
1-800-RECYCLE • [www.conservation.ca.gov](http://www.conservation.ca.gov)



State of California  
 THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
 Department of Conservation  
 Division of Recycling  
 801 K Street, MS 17-01  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

## Recycling Center Maze

Hey RecyCoolers . . . Recycle Rex needs you! Help him find his way to the recycling center so he can cash in all of his recyclable bottles and cans!



## Plastic ...What Does it All Mean?

Hey kids! Have you ever looked on the bottom of a plastic container and found a triangle made out of arrows with a number inside of it? If you have, I bet you wondered what that symbol meant, right? Well, that sure is an excellent question and lucky for you, Rex is here to explain just what it all means! Below, you will find each symbol along with its code, name and some common examples of where you might find it.



**PETE = Polyethylene Terephthalate =**  
 Soda bottles, water bottles, peanut butter jars



**HDPE = High Density Polyethylene =**  
 Milk jugs, water jugs, juice bottles



**PVC = Vinyl/Polyvinyl Chloride =**  
 Detergent bottles, household cleanser bottles



**LDPE = Low Density Polyethylene =**  
 Bread and sandwich bags, 6-pack rings



**PP = Polypropylene =**  
 Straws, margarine tubs



**PS = Polystyrene =** Egg cartons, packing peanuts



**Other = Multi-Layer Plastics =** Ketchup bottles, syrup bottles