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The Recycling Times



HADCO Group's Recycling Division Monthly E-Newsletter



Single-Use Plastics: The Difference Between PET and HDPE

As you may know, New Age Recycling provides collection solutions for a host of recyclable materials such as wastepaper, cardboard, aluminium cans, glass, and Tetra Pak, but did you know that we also collect PET and HDPE plastics?

When one thinks of plastics, one may commonly think of water bottles, but almost every commercial product contains some form of plastic. From smartphones, TV screens, computer motherboards, car bumpers, and medical equipment, to electrical plug casings and light switches - plastic can be found everywhere.

It is impossible to imagine our modern world without plastic. It is such a useful material to store, protect and encase things. The versatility of plastic is what makes it so revolutionary, but also what makes it so detrimental to the environment. While plastic does not decompose, some plastics are easier to recycle than others.

HADCO's Recycling Division collects both PET and HDPE plastics, so in this newsletter, we thought it would be helpful for you to know the difference. See the next page for examples of the plastic products we collect and how to sort and clean your plastics for collection.

"TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO HAS A SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PROBLEM. WE ARE HAPPY TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON OUR FREE RECYCLING OPTIONS SO WE CAN SAVE OUR LANDFILLS, WATERWAYS, AND OCEANS FROM UNNECESSARY PLASTIC POLLUTION!"

Kevin Whiteman -
Managing Director,
Recycling Division,
HADCO Group

The difference between PET and HDPE

PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate)

PET is the most common kind of plastic in the world. It is commonly used to make disposable water bottles, cups, straws, packaging, handle bags, garbage bags, and kitchen wrap. PET plastic is found everywhere in daily use items.

PET is an excellent cost-effective solution, but it is not durable. It often has a low crack resistance and can easily be crushed or punctured. It is also not very heat resistant and can burn quickly and dangerously. PET is non-biodegradable, and a lot of it is found in landfills and oceans, so it is crucial for us to do what we can to recycle our PET plastics for the good of the planet.



HDPE (High-Density Polyethene)

HDPE is a higher-density solution that is stronger than PET as it can withstand heat, weather, and everyday wear. It can withstand most falls and puncture attempts and does not burn as easily.

Examples of everyday HDPE plastics are shampoo and liquid soap bottles, plastic milk jugs, bottles of bleach, skin lotion and make-up jars, microwaveable food containers, reusable plastic water bottles, and even outdoor water tanks.

Just like PET, HDPE is non-biodegradable, so it is important that your empty bottles are recycled.



Closing the loop on 'Single-Use Plastics'

Both PET and HDPE fall into the 'single-use plastics' category - luckily, both these plastics can be recycled. It is imperative that they are collected and sent to the proper recycling channels to close the loop.

Tips for Recycling your Plastics

HADCO's Recycling Division will collect both your PET and HDPE plastics once they are rinsed and cleaned and dry on the inside. Please ensure your waste plastics are placed in a sealed bag. We can arrange to collect them from you free of charge, or you can drop it off at our New Age Recycling sorting facility located at 17A Yorke Avenue, O'Meara Industrial Estate, Arima.

Get Involved!

Are you an eco-conscious citizen, business or manufacturer wishing to recycle your plastics? Feel free to reach out to us and let us tell you more about our complimentary drop-off or collection services.

See our drop-off points below. If you have a large number of waste plastics to recycle, feel free to contact us about our complimentary collection services.

HADCO Limited - Head Office - JRJ Warehousing Compound, Bhagoutie Trace, San Juan.

New Age Recycling Facility - 17A Yorke Avenue, O'Meara Industrial Estate, Arima.

Ecoimpact Facility - Lot 17 DEFG, e Teck Diamond Vale Business Park, Diego Martin.

For sorted plastics (PET and HDPE), glass, Tetra Pak, aluminium cans, wastepaper, and cardboard inquiries, please contact New Age Recycling at (868) 290-2970 / 2975 or visit www.newagerecyclingtt.com.



Crushed plastic PET bottles on a conveyor belt in an EU recycling plant
Image Credit: plasticseurope.org

“NEW AGE RECYCLING SEEKS TO EXPORT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO’S WASTE PLASTIC SO IT CAN BE TURNED INTO NEW PLASTIC-BASED PRODUCTS. WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US ON OUR EXCITING RECYCLING INITIATIVE!”

Ronaldo Pierre -
Business Development Officer,
New Age Recycling Limited,
HADCO Group

For more information on our Recycling Division visit us at www.hadcoltd.com/divisions/recycling

