Table 1: The recyclability and sustainability of common plastics used in conservation
(✓ indicates yes, x indicates no; ~ indicates doubtful)

Resin Code	Product	Materials	Recyclable	Available with post-consumer content
1	Mylar	Polyethylene terephthalate	✓*	✓
2	Polyethylene bags (sealable)	High density polyethylene	~	x
2	Tyvek	High density polyethylene	✓ ***	x
2 3	Bubble wrap	High density polyethylene Polyvinyl chloride Polyvinylidine chloride	✓* x ~	✓ x ~
4	Ethafoam	Low density polyethylene	✓	✓
5	Coroplast	Polypropylene copolymer	✓	✓
5 3	Sealable sleeves for photographs, documents	Polypropylene or Polyvinyl Chloride	~ x	x x
7	Dartek	Nylon	x	x
No Code	Gore-Tex	Membrane: Polytetrafluoroethylene Substrate: Hollytex (as sold on Talas)	x	x
No Code	Hollytex	Polyester	x	✓
No Code	Latex gloves	Natural or synthetic latex rubber	x***	x
No Code	Marvelseal 360	Aluminized nylon polyethylene	x	x
No Code	Nitrile gloves	Synthetic rubber- copolymer	x***	x
No Code	Pellon	Non-woven polyester	x	x
No Code	Plexiglas	Polymethyl methacrylate	x*	x
No Code	Reemay	Polyester	x	✓

No Code	Silicone release Mylar	Silicone coated polyester film	x	x
No Code	Stabiltex	Polyester	x	x
No Code	Teflon tape	Polytetrafluoroethylene	x	x
No Code	Volara	Cross linked polyethylene foam	x	x

- Only recycled at certain centers or through the manufacturer, check your local listings.

** Do not recycle or reuse gloves that have been used for tasks involving solvents, pesticides or other potentially hazardous materials. Check with your institution, an industrial hygienist, or local recycling policies for disposal guidelines.

Table 2: Society for Plastic Industry 1988 Assigned Resin Codes

Resin Code	**Plastic Polymer Type**	**Common Products**	**Recycling Potential**
1	Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET/PETE)	Soft drink and water bottles, peanut butter and jam jars	High
2	High density polyethylene (HDPE)	Milk and juice bottles, laundry detergent bottles	High
3	Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)	Rigid piping, blister packaging for non-food items	Low
4	Low density polyethylene (LDPE)	Cling films, grocery bags, squeezable bottles	Low
5	Polypropylene (PP)	Yogurt containers, re-usable and disposable to-go food containers, food containers, disposable cups and plates	Low-to-medium
6	Polystyrene (PS)	Egg cartons, Styrofoam coffee cups, packing peanuts, disposable to-go containers	Medium-to-low
7	Other (often polycarbonate or acrylonitrile	Beverage bottles, compact discs	Extremely low due to items made from a combination of plastics or from unique plastic

	butadiene styrene)		formulas

Table 3: Comparison of Plastic Product and Carbon Footprint

Resin Code	**Product**	**Carbon Dioxide Equivalent Value (CO2e)***
1	Mylar	1.7 kg
2	HDPE lightweight bag	3g
2	HDPE standard disposable bag	10g
2	HDPE heavyweight bag	50g
5	Coroplast	4.4 kg

* CO_2e=Carbon dioxide equivalent; the total climate change impact or activity rolled into one and expressed in terms of the amount of carbon dioxide that would have the same impact (Berners-Lee p.6)

BOX 1: Additional Resources

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