

WASTE CHEATSHEET

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Symbols on Packaging



Product **intended for recycling**. The code inside (e.g. 01) or abbreviation below the symbol (e.g. PET) identify the material; a percentage instead of a code indicates the share of recycled content. Filled and outlined symbols mean the same thing.



Don't litter → throw it in a suitable bin (container/trash can)



Do not dispose of in regular waste → return to the manufacturer or take to a collection yard



Material from **sustainably** managed forests



Contains plastic; discarding in nature **endangers wildlife**



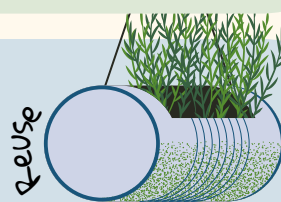
The manufacturer **paid the disposal/ processing fee**; used for regulatory monitoring, it says nothing about recyclability



French symbol for sorting; appears on goods sold in France, has no meaning in the Czech Republic

How to Prevent Waste?

- Buy only what you **need**; **keep track** of what you already have at home → a *half-empty fridge*, proper **storage**, using up leftovers.
- Buy in **large packages** or **package-free** (rice, shampoo...).
- Use **your own coffee cup**, bags and pouches for bakery/vegetable, cloth napkins, rags, **reusable** hygiene products...
- Decline flyers**, use digital receipts.
- Lend/borrow** rarely used items (sports gear, tools).
- Own and buy fewer things (**minimalism**).
- Buy **quality** items, buy **secondhand** where possible.
- Repair** broken items, **sell**, **donate**, or drop off unwanted items at a charity bin.



The 5R Principle



Reduce

Why Is Recycling a Good Idea?

It saves:

- natural resources** → in 2025, CZ saved 30 km² of nature (less need for wood (paper), land for sand pits (glass), landfills, etc.)
- energy** → annually in CZ, as much as Temelín generates in 50 days
- water** → annually, a volume equal to Lipno and Vranov combined
- CO₂** → as if every resident of Pilsen drove a car around the Earth.¹

It also:

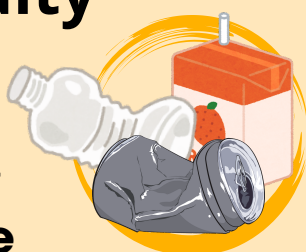
- reduces the amount of waste → fewer landfills, **cleaner** soil, groundwater
- reduces **dependence** on imported raw materials
- creates **jobs**

Rot

Recycle

Multi-commodity collection

Some containers accept **more than one type of waste**. Most commonly, plastic containers also accept **beverage cartons** or **metals**. This varies by municipality, the easiest way to tell is by checking the labels on the container.



Useful Links

What goes where:

samosebou.cz/kampatri/

Map of sorting points:

kamtridit.cz

How recycling works:

jaktridit.cz/en/recycling/

More on sorting:

jaktridit.cz/en, samosebou.cz



Waste Management Hierarchy



Recycling Symbols for Key Materials

The color of the symbol (and dots) indicates which container the material belongs to: **plastic**, **paper**, **metal**, **clear (white) glass** (light gray), **colored glass**, **cartons**, **mixed waste/collection yard**. Plastics marked with the letter **O** ("other") and number **7** (which covers less common plastics with codes 8–19) can typically be put in with plastics, but this depends on local rules. Among composites, **only 81 and 84** can be sorted separately, everything else goes into mixed waste.

Plastics	01 PET, 02 PE-HD, 03 PVC, 04 PE-LD, 05 PP, 06 PS, 07 O
Paper	20 PAP, 39 PAP
Metals	40 FE, 41 ALU
Wood	50 FOR, 51 FOR
Textiles	60 TEX, 61 TEX
Glass	70 GL, 71 GL, 74 GL, 75 GL
Composites	81 C/PAP, 84 C/PAP, 90 C/LDPEC/LDPE, 91 C/LDPEC/LDPE

Cheatsheet for your fridge, classroom or as a gift? Color A2/A3 poster available at tridici-kompas.cz/koupit-tahak

What do I do if I don't have a biowaste bin?

Biowaste decomposes into methane on landfills, which is a potent greenhouse gas. Everyone is required to sort biowaste, and your municipality should provide the means to do so. Municipalities often **offer a brown bin delivery** on request. Check your municipality's website or ask directly how they handle it. If you have a garden, you can also set up a home **composter**, or use a community composter if your municipality has one.

How do I get waste to the collection yard?

Check your municipality's website for dates when a bulky waste container (hazardous waste does not go in it), or a mobile collection yard will be placed near your home.

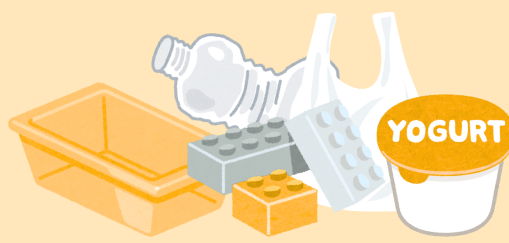
What about used cooking oil?

Pour it into a PET bottle and take it to an **oil collection container** or the collection yard.

Where can I dispose of batteries?

In **collection boxes** at stores (electronics, supermarkets), schools, and municipal offices; at the **collection yard** (mainly for large batteries); or through take-back schemes when buying new batteries.

Plastics



Belongs:

- PET bottles, plastic packaging, yogurt cups, polystyrene trays...
- plastic film, bags
- toys, other plastic products...

Does not belong:

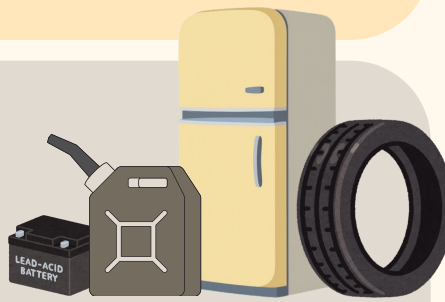
A superscript abbreviation by each item shows where it actually belongs – see the legend at the top of the page.

- **medicine blister packs**^P
- yogurt lids with a metal layer^M
- **CDs**, DVDs, bioplastics^M
- **rubber**, tires^{CY}
- containers from hazardous substances, chemicals, and oils^{CY}
- styrofoam packing material, PVC ("novodur"), construction/rigid polystyrene (regular is fine), linoleum^{CY}

Tips:

- Crush bottles **flat** (→ fewer collection runs)
- You can leave the cap on the bottle
- Containers don't need to be washed, but must be **empty** and **not greasy**

Collection Yard



Belongs:

- hazardous waste (paints, oils, batteries, fluorescent tubes)
- bulky waste (furniture, carpets), tires, PVC pipes, windows
- small amounts of construction waste
- e-waste, textiles
- pruned branches, raked leaves

Does not belong:

- large amounts of construction rubble, business waste^{PS}

Tips:

- This is where anything too **large**, **hazardous**, or unsuitable for regular recycling (like PVC) belongs
- If your municipality doesn't have one, it must arrange a mobile waste collection at least twice a year

Beverage Cartons



Belongs:

- cartons from juice, milk, wine, and other beverages

Does not belong:

- heavily greasy or otherwise contaminated cartons^M
- **aluminum-lined pouches** (from coffee, spices, powdered foods etc.)^M

Tips:

- Also known as **Tetra Pak**[®]
- Can often be sorted with plastics as part of **multi-commodity collection** (if the yellow bin has a "beverage cartons" label)
- Flatten before disposing

Paper



Belongs:

- boxes, cartons
- newspapers, flyers, books without covers, notebooks, office paper
- paper packaging
- toilet paper **rolls**, **egg cartons** (recycling technology is now advanced enough to handle these)

Does not belong:

- greasy, wet, or dirty paper^M
- tissues, paper towels^{M, clean+chemical-free B}
- waxed/laminated paper, photos^M
- **receipts** (unless marked as recyclable), **coffee cups**^M
- **beverage cartons**^C
- aluminum-lined **spice pouches**^M

Tips:

- Remove the cover from books
- No need to remove paperclips or plastic envelope windows

E-Waste



Belongs:

- small electronics, appliances
- mobile phones, cables, chargers
- e-cigarettes

Does not belong:

- **batteries**^{CB, bigger into CY}
- fluorescent tubes (contain mercury)^{CY}

Tips:

- Large appliances or ones containing hazardous substances (old refrigerators, fluorescent tubes, batteries) belong at the **collection yard**

Metals



Belongs:

- cans, tins
- metal packaging, clean aluminum foil
- lids from yogurt cups, jars, and bottles
- toothpaste tubes, *completely empty* spray cans (e.g. from deodorants)
- tea light candle cups

Does not belong:

- contaminated metal containers from chemicals and sprays, paint tubes^{CY}
- **plastic yogurt lids** with a metal layer, butter wrappers, chip bags^M
- **medicine blister packs**^M
- batteries^{CY/BA}, e-waste^{E/CY}

Tips:

- If the material springs back after being squeezed in your hand, it's not metal
- Only discard spray cans once completely empty
- Metal can often be sorted with plastic or glass as part of multi-commodity collection

Glass



Belongs:

- bottles, jars from food
- small amounts of flat/sheet glass

Does not belong:

- ceramics and porcelain^{M/CY}
- mirrors (metal coating – don't belong even into glass+metal containers)^{M/CY}
- **light bulbs**, fluorescent tubes^{CB/CY}
- car glass and wired glass^{CY}
- heat-resistant and lab glass (different melting point, can ruin an entire batch)^{M/CY}
- monitors^{E, CRT ones into CY}

Tips:

- Separate **clear** and **colored** glass (colored glass contains non-removable dyes)
- Jars **don't need to be washed**
- No need to remove labels or even lids (these are separated automatically during processing)

Mixed Waste



Belongs:

- dirty packaging, spice pouches
- hygiene products, wet wipes, unwearable textiles, razors
- "paper" coffee cups, dust...

Does not belong:

- anything that can be recycled/reused
- wearable textiles^T, medicine^L, electronics^E
- large or hazardous waste (batteries, furniture)^{CY}

Tips:

- **Public trash cans** (in cities, hotels...) are for mixed waste (unless labeled otherwise) and their contents go to landfill — it's always better to find a sorting container instead

Biowaste



Belongs:

- fruit and vegetable scraps, nutshells
- coffee grounds (filter included), *paper* tea bags
- eggshells, grass, leaves, sawdust

Does not belong:

- meat, **bones**, cooked **food**^M
- used diapers and hygiene products, plastic tea bags^M
- "compostable" plastic bags^M
- ash^{CY}
- oils and liquids^{CY}

Tips:

- "Bioplastic" ≠ biowaste – composting facilities usually can't process it in the same cycle as organic material