



# Recycling Labeling Laws Today - Truth In Labeling Task Force

As of 2021, 36 states require the resin identification code (RIC) and chasing arrows on plastic bottles, rigid plastic containers or both. The Society of the Plastics Industry (now the Plastics Industry Association) championed these laws around 1988. The states include:

- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Jersey
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Virginia
- Wisconsin

## Recent Changes

In 2021, the number of states requiring the chasing arrows on rigid plastic containers saw its most dramatic changes in years. [Washington \(SB 5022\)](#) removed the requirement to have the chasing arrows symbol on plastic container. Similarly, [Oregon \(SB 582\)](#) repealed provisions requiring the chasing arrows **and** RIC on plastic containers. In California (SB 343), unless a container meets statewide recyclability requirements, the use of the chasing arrows mark is prohibited as of 2025 (see specific SB 343 factsheet).

Maine joined Oregon in passing an extended producer responsibility bill for packaging in 2021. While the Maine law does not have labeling changes or requirements, it allows for lower producer fees if “labeling of packaging material to reduce consumer confusion” is included on packaging.

Other notable labeling laws include

- North Carolina ([HB 315](#)) and Alabama ([S-284](#)) require “not recyclable, do not recycle” labels on biodegradable and compostable plastic products.
- New laws surrounding labeling non-flushable wipes are becoming more common as well. Oregon([HB 2344](#)), California ([AB 818](#)), and Washington ([HB 2565](#)) recently passed flushable wipes labeling laws.
- California has strict laws regulating the marketing and labeling of degradable plastic products, including those claimed to be “compostable” or “biodegradable.” The law requires environmental marketing claims, whether explicit or implied, to be substantiated by competent and reliable clear scientific evidence for environmental claims ([PRC Sections 42355-42358.5](#)).

## Other considerations

[ASTM](#) – In 2013, ASTM updated its Standard Practice for Coding Plastic Manufactured Articles, moving from a resin identification code surrounded by the chasing arrows to a solid triangle. Since 36 states still require chasing arrows, the use of the solid triangle is mixed. California does require the use of the ASTM triangle instead of the chasing arrows for marking plastics. California’s SB 343 does not regulate a resin identification code placed inside a solid equilateral triangle as a misleading or deceptive claim. Updated examples are shown to the right.

[Federal Trade Commission Green Guides](#) - First issued in 1992, the Federal Trade Commission’s (FTC) Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims or “Green Guides” were last updated in 2012. The FTC plans to update the Green Guides in 2022. The guides provide advice on environmental marketing claims, how consumers are likely to interpret claims, how producers can substantiate them, and how marketers can qualify their claims to avoid deceiving consumers. FTC will seek public comment before any final changes.















Resin	Resin Identification Code-Option A	Resin Identification Code-Option B
Poly(ethylene terephthalate)	 1 PETE	 01 PET
High density polyethylene	 2 HDPE	 02 PE-HE
Poly(vinyl chloride)	 3 V	 03 PVC
Low density polyethylene	 4 LDPE	 04 PE-LD
Polypropylene	 5 PP	 05 PP
Polystyrene	 6 PS	 06 PS
Other resins	 7 OTHER	 07 0

Image from ASTM D7611

<https://www.astm.org/COMMIT/d7611.pdf>

## Links

- [ASTM](#)
- [Federal Trade Commission Green Guides](#)

## Alternate formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).