

THE LIFE CYCLE OF A RECYCLED BOTTLE!

STAGE 1: USED BOTTLE

This process begins when you place an empty bottle into a recycling bin. The bottle is recovered at a recycling facility and taken to a plastic reclaiming plant.



STAGE 2: DIRTY PET FLAKES

Used plastic bottles are shredded with a machine into tiny pieces, called flakes. The flakes will be washed to help remove glue, paper, sand, or other contaminants.



STAGE 3: CLEAN PET FLAKES

Whether it is with a float-sink process or a washing line, the plastic flakes receive continuous wash of water and detergent to remove pieces of labels, caps, germs, or dirt that might have been found in the dirty flakes.



STAGE 6: NEW BOTTLE

The preform is heated up again until the plastic is soft enough to flow. Then pressurized air pushes the plastic out to the edges of the mold, which forms the plastic into the shape of a bottle. The blow mold is cooled and it opens up to release a brand new bottle.



Plastic #1 is made of polyethylene terephthalate, aka PETE, PET, or polyester. It's known for its strength, durability, barrier properties, and ability to be formed into various shapes.

Plastic bottles are very recyclable! Recycling a plastic bottle uses much less energy and natural resources than making one from new (virgin) materials, so remember to put your used bottles in the recycling bin to help give them new life!

STEP 4: RESIN PELLETS

The clean flakes are then melted down at a high temperature and formed into resin pellets. At this point, they could be used to make all kinds of useful things.



STAGE 5: PREFORM

Using high heat and pressure, the resin pellets are melted down and injected into a mold to create the "preform."

