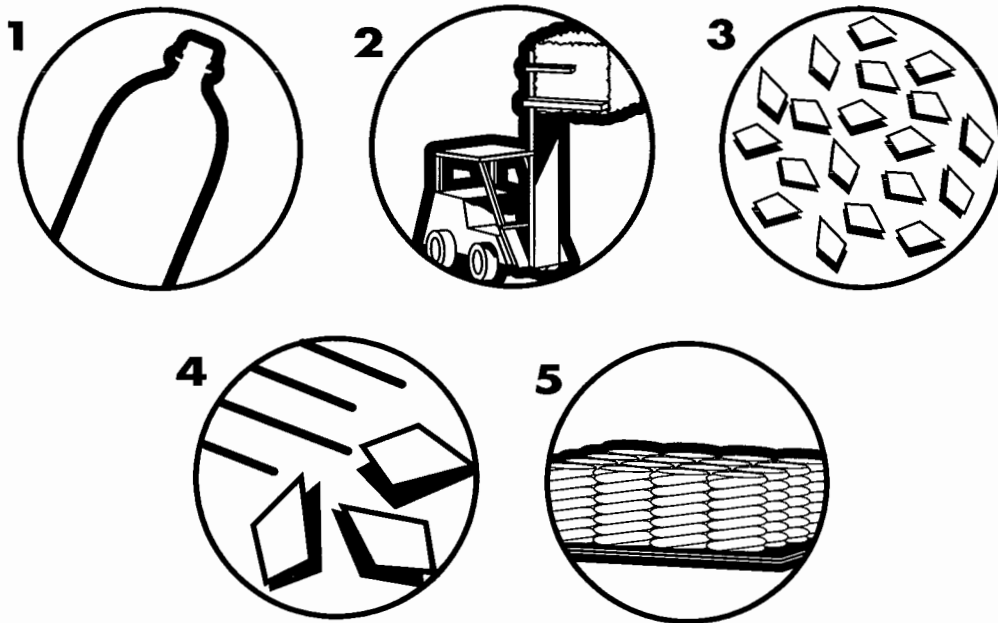


From Container To Carpet

Plastic is an important recyclable material, just like glass, aluminum and paper. Here's how one system turns bottles made of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic into polyester carpet fibers. Carpet is only one of many end-use applications for recycled PET.



- 1. PET plastic bottles are collected from curbside programs and drop off centers.**
- 2. PET plastic bottles are compacted into 3X4X5 foot bales weighing approximately 1,000 pounds.**
- 3. Bottles are ground by machine into 3/8 inch chips called "flake."**
- 4. Air jets separate impurities and a scrubber washes the flakes to remove dirt, glue, food residue and other contaminants.**
- 5. The flakes are melted and forced through molds to create hairlike fibers. These are spun into polyester carpet or other end products.**