

# PET: A Sustainable Package

[www.napcor.com](http://www.napcor.com)

## What is PET?

PET stands for **polyethylene terephthalate**, a form of polyester. It is commonly used to package soft drinks, water, juice, peanut butter, salad dressings, beer and increasingly for wine and spirits. PET can also be produced in sheet form, then formed into cups and rigid packaging for items such as berries, cakes, pies, salads and other deli selections.



## How is it Sustainable?

PET is the most recycled plastic packaging in the world and PET containers are easily identified by the #1 code on or near the bottom. **PET packaging can be made from up to 100% recycled PET** and more and more companies are looking to incorporate recycled PET into their products and packaging.



## Recycle Your PET!

Please recycle your PET containers whenever possible and encourage your community and public places to provide opportunities for recycling.

For more information about **NAPCOR** and PET recycling, please visit our web site, [www.napcor.com](http://www.napcor.com). Visit our new "Resources" menu heading for tools, resources and links.





## PET is a safe, convenient beverage container choice:

- Strong and lightweight
- Shatter-resistant and resealable
- Preserves taste

## ... and an energy-efficient packaging choice:

- PET container manufacturers continue to make PET bottles lighter — **up to 30% lighter** over the last 10 years.
- Products packaged in lightweight **PET containers require less fuel to transport.**
- Less fuel means **reduced greenhouse gas emissions.**
- Lighter products in unbreakable PET require **less packaging to safely pack, transport and store.**
- PET can be recycled into carpet, car parts, fabrics, fiberfill (for products like pillows and jackets), and new PET bottles and packaging.

## PET Fun Facts & Figures...

### It all began...

The PET bottle was patented in **1973** by chemist Nathaniel Wyeth (brother of distinguished American painter Andrew Wyeth).

### Wow...

The first PET bottle was recycled in 1977. Since that time over **15.7 billion pounds** of PET bottles have been recycled in the United States and Canada.

### Something new...

It takes about **nineteen PET bottles** to make one square foot of carpet, an extra large t-shirt, or enough fiberfill for a ski jacket.



Unless otherwise noted, all information about PET provided by and attributable to National Association for PET Container Resources (NAPCOR), PO Box 1327, Sonoma, CA 95476, 707-996-4207.