

# RCBC Recycling Fact Sheets

# The Mobius Loop

## Recycling Symbols

What do they mean?










This symbol indicates that the material is recyclable where facilities exist. It does not mean that the product is made from recycled material.



This mobius loop means that the container is made up of some recycled materials. When a percentage is indicated within the symbol, that percentage of the product has been made from recycled materials.

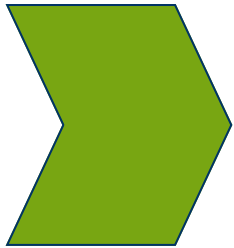
## Plastic Recycling Symbols

		Typical Products	Recycled Products
 PET	Polyethylene Terephthalate	Soft drinks containers Peanut butter jars	Pillow stuffing
 HDPE	High Density Polyethylene	Milk or juice jugs Some yogurt containers Shampoo bottles	Blue Boxes Playground equipment
 PVC	Polyvinyl Chloride	Water bottles	Floor tiles Bubble wrap Traffic cones
 LDPE	Low Density Polyethylene	Bread and grocery bags	Plastic lumber Compost bins
 PP	Polypropylene	Syrup and ketchup bottles	Ice scrapers
 PS	Polystyrene	Foam cups	Egg cartons
 OTHER	Other	Safety glasses Automotive tail lights	Outdoor signs

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## The History of the Mobius Loop



The environmental movement began in 1969 and early 1970, with the first Earth day being held in April 1970.

In response a container manufacturing company sponsored a contest called "for the love of the earth" for local art and design students.

Due to the simplicity and clarity of the symbol, and because anyone is free to use the recycling symbol, it has become widely used worldwide.



Gary Anderson won first prize for his symbol of a three-chasing-arrows, known as the mobius loop. The mobius loop was first discovered in the 19th century by German mathematician August Ferdinand Mobius.

The mobius loop symbol is public domain, and is not a trademark.

Mobius also discovered that the loop would remain twisted when the ends are connected if there are an odd number of twists in it (in this case 3).

Mobius found that a strip of paper twisted once over and joined at the tips formed a continuous, single-edged, one-sided surface.

### Sources:

Resource Recycling, May 1999. "Gary Anderson Has Been Found!" [http://www.afandpa.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Environment\\_and\\_Recycling/Recycling/Recycling\\_Resources/GaryAndersonFound.pdf](http://www.afandpa.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Environment_and_Recycling/Recycling/Recycling_Resources/GaryAndersonFound.pdf)

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Dyer, Judith. The History of Recycling Symbol: How Gary Anderson Designed the Recycling Symbol. [http://www.dyer-consequences.com/recycling\\_symbol.html](http://www.dyer-consequences.com/recycling_symbol.html)

**For more information:**

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