



PET Factsheet

What is PET?

PET – or polyethylene terephthalate – is the most common packaging for food and drink containers. It is also the most recycled plastic on the planet. It is lightweight but shatterproof and has been around for over 30 years.

Does PET contain Bisphenol A?

Nope. Polycarbonate plastic is the one people are concerned about in relation to the chemical *Bisphenol A*. PET is 100% *Bisphenol A* free.

What's its safety record like?

PET is regulated by EU legislation and has been approved as safe for food and drink by food standard authorities in the US, EU and UK.

The only issue to consider is the hygiene of your bottle. Tap customers should follow our care instructions and clean their bottle between refills with warm soapy water.

Can I put my bottle in the dishwasher or wash it in hot water?

I'm afraid not - PET shrinks at higher temperatures which is why the Tap bottle should only be washed in warm water.

What about chemicals like *antimony* and *pthalates* – what are they and are they dangerous?

Antimony and pthalates are used to make PET and have been studied to ensure they are safe.

When the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health (BAG) tested for antimony in water bottled in PET containers they found an average level of 0.43 micrograms per litre ($\mu\text{g/l}$), 46 times smaller than the World Health Organization's recommended limit of 20 micrograms per litre ($\mu\text{g/l}$).

Pthalates are different and have been the subject of some confusion. There is concern about a chemical called *orthophthalates*, but this is not contained in PET. Instead, PET uses *terephthalate* which is perfectly safe.

Can PET be recycled?

Yes and we encourage you to do so! PET is the most recycled plastic in the UK and with 75% of local authorities providing kerbside collection of plastics it's easy to do.