

# Why Are So Few Plastics Recyclable?

*Most plastics fail the basic recycling criteria.*

## BAD DESIGN

Plastic packaging contains toxic additives, dyes, labels, and other chemicals that contaminate new products.



## FEW BUYERS

The plastics industry does not buy back enough recycled plastics. On average, plastic beverage containers are made from less than 10% recycled content.



## LOW-QUALITY MATERIAL

Plastics degrade in quality each time they are recycled. Only a fraction of plastics are recyclable, and most of those are downcycled into products that cannot be recycled again.



## COSTLY TO COLLECT AND SORT

Consumer brands constantly introduce new packaging with different resin types, shapes, colors, and chemical additives that are costly and complicated to collect and sort.



## INSUFFICIENT MARKET VALUE

Subsidized fossil fuel prices make virgin plastics cheap to produce. The market value of recycled plastics does not cover the costs of collection and processing.



## MISLEADING LABELING

The chasing arrows recycling symbol appears on almost all plastics, misleading consumers to believe they are recyclable.



To learn more, visit [ambr-recyclers.org](http://ambr-recyclers.org).



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Alliance of Mission-Based Recyclers