

# FROM HOUSEHOLD PACKAGING TO A SECOND LIFE

## HDPE Recycling Process in a Nutshell

HDPE is used to package household cleaning and personal care products, among other things. It's all around your home, hiding in your cupboards!

### HERE'S HOW HDPE GETS RECYCLED

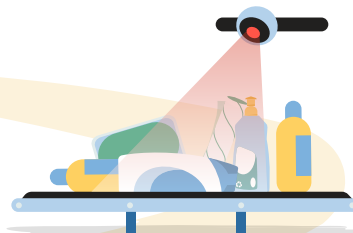
#### 1. COLLECTION

HDPE household waste is collected with other types of plastic packaging and other types of packaging materials.



#### 2. SORTING

At the sorting center, HDPE is separated from other materials using highly efficient technologies.



#### 3. SIZE REDUCTION

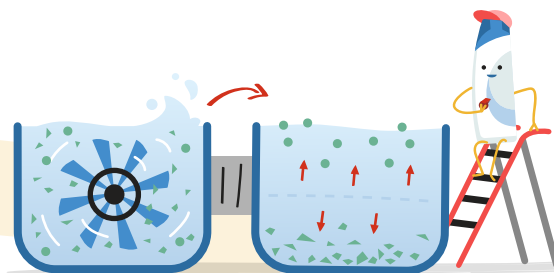
Recyclers can sort HDPE by color or product type before grinding it into flakes.



Depending on product specifications, the washed flakes can be directly processed into new products or undergo additional steps of the recycling process.

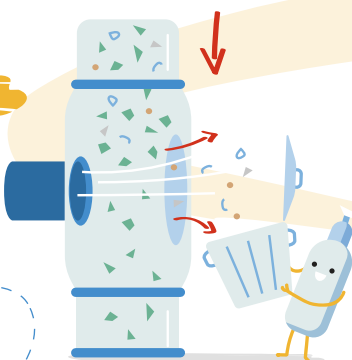
#### 4. WASHING & DENSITY SEPARATION

Flakes are washed and dried to remove impurities, and other plastic types are separated by density. In the case of HDPE, the material will float.



#### 5. AIR ELUTRIATION

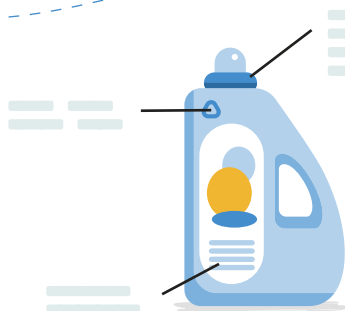
HDPE flakes go through a process called air elutriation to remove labels and sleeves that can hinder recycling.



Air elutriation is a process that uses a stream of air to separate particles based on their size, shape and density.

#### 6. EXTRUSION

Flakes are melted and filtered with the use of sieves to remove unwanted material. Finally, the material is extruded into pellets ready to find their way into new products.



The design of the package is an important factor to make HDPE recycling possible.

Materials discarded during extrusion can be used for less demanding applications, like outdoor traffic posts and furniture.

So next time you throw away your plastic container, think of HDPE and give it a second chance at life!