



# Environment Newsletter

District 410E - July 2022



## July is Plastic Free Month

### An eco-activist has worn all his own rubbish for an entire month

To show how much waste one person creates. Rob Greenfield, 35, wanted to create a visual that would help people understand their trash footprint. So for one month, he wore every piece of plastic he would normally throw away. This equates to roughly 2 kgs per day, which most people don't think twice about before disposing of.



He had an expandable plastic suit, expanding with every piece of plastic added.

After 27 days of packing on the pounds, Rob claimed his suit weighed 28 kgs! "For most people, trash is out of sight, out of mind: we throw it away & never think about it again. Hopefully some of the people I came across will now think twice about the amount they are throwing away"

- News24.com / Fin24

Rather than going to such extremes, think about & advocate responsible recycling of plastic for this month, and preferably for the whole year! Some guidelines from Plastics SA, the umbrella organisation for the plastics industry in SA, follows. Firstly, look for the recycling logo:



The international polymer identification code used on products to identify plastics and effective plastic recycling, provides further information



PET



PE-HD



PVC



PE-LD



PP



PS



OTHER

'Plastic is, nowadays, almost universally reviled. Yet it shouldn't be. It is a magnificent material, with innumerable advantages that far outweigh its disadvantages.'

[An ode to plastic - Daily Friend](#)

**The secret lies in responsible recycling**



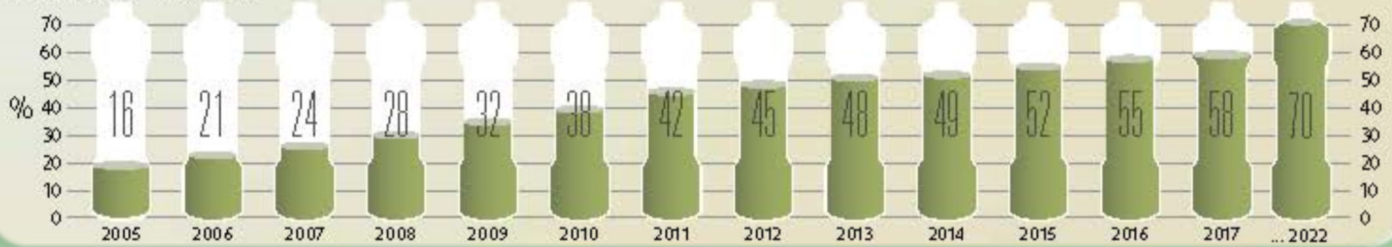
## Applications for PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate):

**Bottles** for beverages, household, personal care & pharmaceutical products, **bottles, jars, tubs & trays** for food items, and **sheet and film** for packaging. **Polyester staple fibre / filament** is used in apparel, home textiles, automotive carpets, sound insulation, boot linings, seat covers and Industrial End Use (geotextiles & roof insulation)

### PET is Recyclable

PET is technically 100% recyclable. Once recycled, from either pre-consumer (such as factory off-cuts) or post-consumer waste, it is called rPET, or Recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate. Industry in SA is on track towards recycling 70% of post-consumer beverage PET by 2022.

PET bottles recycled



### Recyclers of PET:

Plastics|SA

Nampak  
Liquid Plastics

extrupet

Hosaf

petco

Plastics Industry  
Environment



## Applications for PE-HD (High Density Polyethylene):

Crates & boxes; bottles for milk, food products, detergents, cosmetics; food storage containers; carrier bags; drums for food, chemicals & pesticides



### PE-HD Pipes form an integrated part of the Infrastructure of SA

Applications are numerous: PE-HD pipes are used in the civil sector, chemical sector, steel industry and in gas distribution

### PE-HD is recycled into:

Crates & bins; dustbins; flower pots; automotive mud flaps; pallets; toys; carrier bags; traffic barrier cones; pipes; refuse bags; timber plastic products; drums; worm farms; chicken nests



Plastics|SA

Nampak  
Megapak

PLASTOMARK (PTY) LTD

POLYOAK  
PACKAGING

SAPPMMA

Polyco  
Making waste work

Plastics Industry  
Environment





### Applications for PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride):

Blood transfusion sets; flooring; waterproof fabrics; bottles; clear trays; vinyl records; cling film; gloves; shoe soles; cable insulation; floor and wall covering; door panels; artificial leather; underbody sealants; pipes; boats; raincoats



**PVC is considered to be the most versatile thermoplastic.** It was accidentally discovered twice in the 19th century, 1838 in France & 1872 in Germany, when scientists discovered that the newly created chemical gas, vinyl chloride, underwent a chemical reaction when exposed to sunlight - now recognised as polymerisation - resulting in a solid off-white material

### Recyclers of PVC :



### PVC is recycled into:

Shoe soles; pipes; hoses; door mats; car mats; gum boots; conduit; speed bumps; traffic cones



### Applications for PE-LD (Low Density Polyethylene):

Boutique bags; compost bags; frozen food bags; milk sachets; cosmetic tubes; toys; canoes; chemical tanks; car wash bristles; road barriers; large tanks; irrigation pipes; phone cables; pallet wrap; pond liners



### PE-LD is recycled into:

Bags; dustbins; containers; bin liners; refuse bags; construction film; water pipes; irrigation pipes; furniture covers; blast barricades



### PE-LD Recyclers



The remaining three polymer codes will be covered in the August newsletter



A leading South African private rhino breeder has announced plans to annually re-lease 100 farm-bred rhinos into the wild to help restock a population decimated by poaching.

The animals will come from a 2004-strong herd, bred by private rhino farmer John Hume, who runs the world's biggest rhino farm on an 8 400-hectare piece of land in South Africa's North West province.

The deal to "annually re-wild approximately 100 southern white rhinoceros to their natural habitat in southern Africa is ready for implementation", a spokesperson for Hume's company, Platinum Rhino captive breeding operation, said on Tuesday.

The company did not state when the project would be rolled out.

South Africa is home to about 80 percent of the world's rhino population, but in recent years has suffered record slaughter by poachers. A total of 451 rhinos were killed in 2021 - focusingonwildlife.com



## **Environment Calendar : August / September**

<b>12 August:</b>	<b>World Elephant Day</b>
<b>19 August:</b>	<b>International Orangutan Day</b>
<b>29 Aug - 4 Sept:</b>	<b>National Arbor Week</b>
<b>04 September:</b>	<b>International Vulture Awareness Day</b>
<b>21 September:</b>	<b>Zero Emissions Day</b>
<b>25 September:</b>	<b>World Rivers Day</b>