

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**Little-Known Facts about PET Plastic**

- PET (polyethylene terephthalate) is actually polyester. When PET is used for bottles, containers and other applications, it is called PET or PET resin. When PET is used as a fiber, it is typically called polyester.
- The PET bottle was invented by Nathaniel C. Wyeth, a DuPont engineer and brother of American painter Andrew Wyeth. The patent was issued to Wyeth in 1973 and assigned to DuPont.
- According to the EPA, recycling one pound of PET bottles (that's about 10 two-liter soda bottles) saves approximately 26,000 BTUs of energy.
- PET bottles and the sun are helping millions of people in developing countries obtain potable water. Using a system called SODIS (solar water disinfection), inhabitants set water-filled PET bottles in the sun for several hours or days – depending on how much sunlight is available – as a simple but effective means of destroying disease-causing bacteria and gaining safe drinking water.
- Approximately 1.5 billion pounds of used PET bottles and containers are collected in the U.S. each year for recycling. PET is the most recycled plastic in the world.
- A single-serve PET bottle (0.5 liter) is strong enough to hold nearly 40 times its weight in water.
- Chemists keep finding new ways to make PET lighter without losing any strength. A 2-liter PET bottle that weighed 68 grams in 1980 now weighs as little as 42 grams.
- Woven, knitted and braided PET fibers are sometimes used by surgeons for implantable sutures, cardiovascular patches and wound repair meshes because of PET's bio-stability and durability.
- More than 120 U.S. colleges and universities – including the University of Pennsylvania, Yale, Michigan State and Wake Forest – are using graduation caps and gowns made from 100% recycled PET.
- Americans recycle more than 1 million single-serve PET water bottles every hour.