



## **Resin Identification Codes on Plastics**

Although most of us think of them as recycling classifications, the resin identification codes (the numbers inside the triangle on the bottom of most plastic products) were actually designed as a way for people to identify the type of plastic that products are made from. Unfortunately, there have also been some misunderstandings about how these codes relate to the safety of plastics.

Because the safety of our products has always been, and will always be, of paramount importance at Zak Designs, we want to make sure that our customers have a complete understanding of these numbers and how they relate to the safety of Zak products.

In 1988, as a means to classify the type of plastic that certain products are made from, the North American Society of the Plastics Industry, implemented the resin identification code system. This was an adequate system at the time, but it was far from comprehensive – even more than 20 years ago. The first six classifications in this system are designed for the plastics that were most commonly used in 1988. The final classification, however, was – and continues to be – a catch-all category. Any product that is not made entirely of one of the six types of plastics outlined in the other categories is put into the (7), or “Other Resins” classification. This broad category contains many everyday plastic products, including plastics that the FDA lists as acceptable food contact surfaces. This category also encompasses all of the new types of plastics that have been developed since the system was implemented, including the newly developed bio-plastics.

Because most of Zak Designs’ mealtime products are designed for extended use, the materials used in Zak products are typically not among the six most common types of plastics, and thus fall into the catch-all category. These products, however, like the majority of the products labeled with a (7), are completely safe, and any claim that products in this category should not be used simply because of the broad resin classification they fall into is irresponsible and completely inaccurate.

Each and every Zak product is manufactured to all applicable state, federal, and international regulations and standards, and all of our products are tested to ensure they meet our strict guidelines for safety and quality. For more than 30 years, Zak Designs has maintained a commitment to the children and families who use our products. This commitment is the driving force of our company, and we will continue to honor that commitment as long as people around the world are eating their meals on Zak Designs’ products.