

# UNIT 1

## RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

**Rubbish** is everything that you throw away or no longer have a use for.

**Rubbish** is anything from an empty crisp packet to a broken toy.

**Rubbish** can be solid, liquid or gas.

People usually talk about three different sorts of rubbish:

Rubbish is made up of different substances and materials:

- **Industrial** /commercial (Factories, offices, schools,shops)
- **Domestic** (households)
- **Hazardous** (needs to be disposed of in a careful way to prevent pollution, for example, chemicals)

Rubbish is made up of different substances and materials:

The different types of materials can be **biodegradable** or **non - biodegradable**.

Certain laws make sure that rubbish is disposed of in a responsible way. For example, if chemicals find their way into rivers or streams they can cause **pollution**, which may kill wildlife. If rubbish from dustbins is allowed to **overflow** then the streets become filled with **litter**.

## How much rubbish ....

Each **household** produces about one **tonne** of rubbish **annually**, **amounting** to about 29.1 million tonnes for the UK each year. That's the same weight of around 4.85 million male African Elephants!

## Why is rubbish increasing ( growing) ?

The amount of rubbish we throw away is **increasing** for a number of reasons:

- **new packaging materials** and technology are being developed
- **lifestyle changes**, for example a greater reliance on convenience/fast food
- **increasing affluence**, leading to greater consumption of goods
- **increasing population**

Today's rubbish compared to pre-1960s rubbish, contains more products that don't break down when they're put in the ground. Packaging waste makes up about a quarter of all the rubbish you put in your bin : Most of this could be recycled.

## Rubbish in our household

Everybody makes rubbish. Each week the average family in a developed country gets through 4 glass bottles or jars, 13 cans, 3 plastic bottles and 5 kilograms of paper. However, this still leaves a lot of rubbish that we have to **incinerate** or **bury**.

Have a look at the picture of the dustbin that shows the sort of rubbish that goes into the **average** family's dustbin.

## **Ferrous and non ferrous metals:**

### **Ferrous:**

These are metals which contain iron. They may have small amounts of other metals or other elements added, to give the required properties.

### **Non-ferrous:**

These are metals which do not contain any iron. They are not magnetic and are usually more resistant to corrosion than ferrous metals.

Examples are aluminium, copper, lead. zinc and tin.