

UNIT 2 RECYCLE

How to recycle

We need to increase the amount of rubbish that is recycled, because we cannot carry on **burying** and burning rubbish forever. This is recognised by the government who are thinking of ways we can reduce the amount of rubbish we produce while we have to increase the amount we reuse and recycle.

What can we change at home ?

However, these changes will not happen overnight. To increase **recycling** we need to:

- cancel delivery of unwanted newspapers
- donate old magazines to waiting rooms
- collect more rubbish in recycling bins in our households ready to be recycled
- take a packed lunch to school in a reusable plastic container
- use your own shopping bags when visiting the supermarket, or reuse old plastic shopping bags
- build more recycling plants
- buy rechargeable items instead of disposable ones e.g. batteries and camera
- donate old computers and audio visual equipment to community groups or schools
- make sure there are enough rubbish trucks to collect the recyclable rubbish
- buy products in refillable containers e.g. washing powders
- take old clothes and books to charity shops

- look for long lasting (and energy efficient) appliances when buying new electrical items. Ensure these are well maintained to increase product life cycle
- buy concentrated products which use less packaging
- use low energy bulbs which last longer and use less energy

How many things could be recycled

TYPES OF MATERIALS AND HOW TO RECYCLE

GLASS

Bottles and jars are usually separated by colour: brown, clear, and green. They have to be placed in the correct bin.

You have to wash out bottles and jars, remove caps before recycling (avoid wasting water: use your washing-up water).

light bulbs, pyrex-type dishes, windowpanes (broken pieces of window glass) etc. should **not** be put in containers for glass.

What happens to recycled Glass?

This is the beginning of Glass recycling called cullet

When glass jars and bottles are recycled, they are first sorted by colour.

Loaded on truck & transported

The glass is then loaded onto trucks or containers and transported to the nearest processing facility.

Transported to glass processing facility

The glass is then unloaded at one of the facilities and stored in a bunker. When they are ready to use the glass it is loaded into a feed

tank, then moves up a **conveyor** and under a large **magnet** that removes ferrous metal. Next, the glass passes through **picking stations** where ceramic and foreign material are removed manually.

Crushed cullet

The glass is then **crushed** into uniform size and called cullet. The cullet is then mixed with other **raw** materials to create a mixture and ready to be made into new bottles.

New bottles made from recycled glass

The glass is then ready **to be shipped** to bottling companies for filling and distributing.

PLASTIC

There are over 50 different types of plastics.

Most Local Authorities provide recycling **facilities** for HDPE and PET plastic bottles.

Many bottles are made from PET and HDPE including milk, shampoo, detergent and drinks bottles.

When recycling, don't forget to wash and squash your bottles

Plastic bags can be thrown into the specific containers for plastics.

Different types of plastics:

PET: polyethylene terephthalate is usually clear or green, sinks in water, is rigid and is used for : Soft drink bottles, jam jars, vegetable oil bottles

HDPE: high density polyethylene is usually semi-rigid, sinks in water and is used for milk and water jugs, juice bottles

PVC: polyvinyl chloride is semi-rigid, sinks in water detergent and is used for cleanser bottles

LDPE: low density polyethylene is flexible and is used for bread bags, sandwich bags

PP: stands for polypropylene. It is semi-rigid and is used for margarine tubs, straws

PS: polystyrene is often brittle and glossy and is used for styrofoam, egg-cartons

Other: multi-layer plastics is squeezable and is used for ketchup bottles, toothpaste tubes

PAPER

Paper collection is usually separated into: newspapers, magazines, **cardboard and** phone directories. Unless specified, do not recycle catalogues, directories or envelopes which are **gummed** or glued together. Juice and milk cartons cannot be recycled with ordinary paper as they are made up of several materials.

Isn't paper just paper?

No, as a matter of fact, paper has its own "DNA" like human beings.

Cardboard boxes & brown grocery (shopping) bags

Are made with a high-grade fiber to give them extra strength required for their use.

Milk cartons & drink boxes

Many people think you can't recycle milk cartons because of their thin plastic **lining** but this is easily removed during the recycling process.

When they're recycled, a single 1 litre milk carton can be turned into five sheets of high quality office paper.

One example of recyclable drink boxes:

TETRA PAK supplies the majority of drinks cartons.

Items made from Tetra Pak include milk cartons, fruit juices, liquid foods such as pasta sauces and some ice cream cartons, look out for the Tetra Pak label

Newspaper

Creating newsprint out of old newsprint requires that it be **deinked**. After that point, the process is similar to starting with **wood chips**. The **pulp** is pressed and dried into large, continuous rolls of paper. Paper is a natural renewable resource and is both biodegradable and recyclable. It is made up of many fibres. Millions of tonnes of paper are produced each year. This is used for a variety of products and applications such as office paper, newspapers, envelopes, agricultural sacks and the packaging of all types of consumer, commercial and industrial goods.

Find out about recycling symbols

The Green Dot is a symbol used on packaging in many European countries. It signifies that the producer of the packaging has made a contribution towards the recycling of packaging - however we do not use this system in the UK.

The Green Dot is not used as a compliance mark in the UK, but it is still a trademark. Anyone who produces packaging with a Green Dot, which is then sold in the UK, must pay a UK licence **fee**.

SOME OTHER EXAMPLES OF COMMON INTERNATIONAL LABELS FOUND ON PACKAGING