

Recycling

There are three key factors when thinking about how to recycle – The 3 R's



Reduce

You can reduce the amount of waste you create by choosing what rubbish you throw away. Just follow our simple guidelines to reduce your waste at home.

What to buy and how to use it

Waste reduction starts at the supermarket. By making slight alterations to your shopping list you can significantly reduce the amount of waste created in and around the home.

- **Buy only what you need-** Reduce unnecessary waste by avoiding those pointless purchases. Items that rarely get used can be borrowed or shared with others.
- **Buy products that can be reused-** Buy bottles instead of cans and rechargeable batteries. Items such as this create very little waste, as they don't have to be thrown away after they have been used just once.
- **Buy all-purpose household cleaner-** Instead of buying many different ones for each cleaning role.
- **Buy products with little packaging-** So that less packaging ends up in your rubbish bin. For those items you use regularly, buy them in bulk instead of in smaller amounts. This will save money as well as reduce waste.
- **Sell or give away unwanted items-** Reduce waste by donating unwanted items to family, friends or neighbour.
- **Unwanted mail -** Reduce paper waste by cancelling unwanted mail. You can unsubscribe to many national mailing list by contacting the Direct Marketing Association www.dma.org.uk

Reducing hazardous waste

Many hazardous products cannot be recycled as they contain harmful chemicals. However, there are ways of reducing waste by dealing with hazardous products in the correct manor.

- **By non-toxic products whenever possible** - Many toxic products such as motor oil and pesticides cannot be reused.
- **Recycle motor products** -Such as break fluid, oils and tyres by taking them to your local petrol station. By recycling these products instead of throwing them away, you are reducing hazardous waste.
- **Use all of the toxic product** -Such as furniture polish, so there is no hazardous material left in the container when it is discarded
- **Find safer alternatives to hazardous household products** -You can even make you own householder cleaners using products such as baking soda and vinegar. Olive oil with lemon juice is a good alternative to furniture polish and using scented candles are a good alternative to air fresheners.

Reuse

Many items found around the home can be used for different purposes. So before you throw those items away, think about how they can be reused.

Below are some suggestions of how to reuse those everyday bits and pieces.

- **Paper and envelope** – By sticking labels over the address you can reuse the envelope; old envelope can be used as scrap paper to make notes on.
- **Carrier bags:** Carrier bags can be reused in the shops or as bin bags around the house. Paper bags make useful wrapping paper.
- **Wood** -. Can be used in woodcrafts for making objects such as a spice rack or a bird table. Alternatively it could be used as firewood
- **Tyres** - Old tyres can be given to your local petrol station where they will be recycled.

Useful tips

Old electrical equipment – donate old electrical equipment to schools or community centres so that others can reuse them.

Donate old clothes and books - Other people can reuse your unwanted clothes and books when you donate them to charity.

Build a compost bin – you can reuse many waste items such as eggshells and old tea bags, using a compost bin. This waste then degrades and turns into compost that can be used to help your garden grow.

Grass cycling - After mowing your lawn, instead of throwing the grass cuttings away, leave them in your garden. The nutrients from the cuttings go back into the soil and act as a fertiliser.

Website encouraging reusing

Don't Dump That – Provides a quick, easy, and free way to get rid of items you don't want. So if your junk still has some reusable life in it, don't throw it out with the rubbish: someone can probably find a use for it. Simple and easy to use, all you have to do is visit the website, find your nearest forum on the map and register with your email address. You can then place an offer then wait for someone to ask, arrange a time for them to pick up - and it's done. If you're looking for something you can send your own message to ask.

Recycling

Recycling is an important factor in conserving natural resources and greatly contributes towards improving the environment.

Household recycling

Recycling in and around the home can be easy when you know how. By thinking carefully about what products you buy at the supermarket and how to recycle them is the first step towards efficient recycling.

Recycling different materials

Many materials can be recycled, such as paper, plastic, metal and glass. Other items such as furniture, electronic equipment, building material and vehicles can also be recycled.

What you can recycle?

Check what you can recycle in your area by visiting www.recyclenow.com. If you are unsure, contact your local authority for details.

For example Plastic drinking bottles can either be reused or recycled in your green bin or at your local supermarket recycling bank.

Recycle bins:

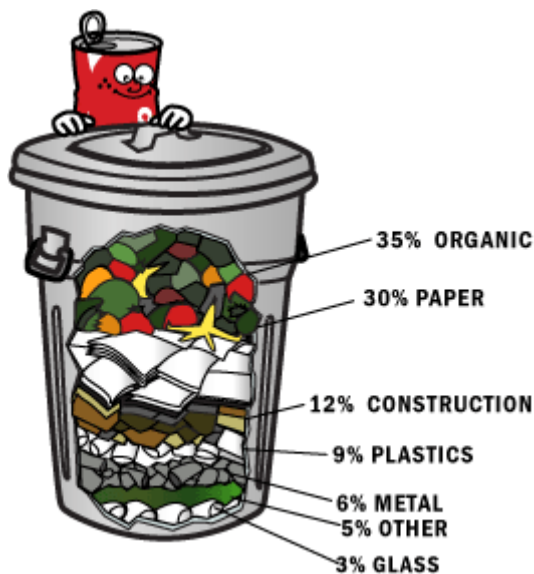
Make sure you have a recycle bin in your home. Keep it in an obvious place so you won't forget to use it. Your local council should be able to provide you with a recycle bin that can be used for materials such as glass, paper, aluminium and plastic.

Recycling Banks:

As well as home recycling bins, there are many recycling banks across the UK that can be used to recycle different materials. They are located on streets across the UK as well as in supermarkets and outside housing estates.

To find out where your local recycling bank is or if you want to know which materials can be recycled where, this information can be found on

www.recycleme.com



What's in your Rubbish Bin?

A large percentage of UK household's still do not recycle enough and throw everything that they consider 'rubbish' into their ordinary bin.

Much of this waste can be recycled and should be disposed of separately to general household waste. Look inside this rubbish bin to see how much of the contents should actually have been recycled

Source: <http://www.recycling-guide.org.uk/>