

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I have to wash plastics before putting them into my recycling?

Recycling doesn't have to be completely clean, but needs to be free from food and liquid so it won't contaminate other items especially paper and card. We recommend giving it a rinse, especially food trays or yoghurt pots and letting it dry before popping into your recycling. This will help your bin to stay clean and make the process more effective.

What do numbers mean on plastic packaging?

Some manufactures label plastic packaging with numbers such as: PET, HDPE or 1-7. Across re3, we generally recycle type 1 (PET), 2 (HDPE) and 5 (PP) (if they are bottle and trays, pots, tubs - shaped) however this can vary so please follow guidance or use re3cyclopedia app.

Can I leave bottle tops on plastic bottles?

Yes, currently you can leave the tops on. Please empty, squash and if possible safely puncture your plastic bottles to let the air out before putting the top back on. This way you can save space in your recycling bin/box and improve the transport efficiency. You can also leave lids on plastic tubs. We cannot recycle spray parts or soap dispenser pumps - if removable, please discard these.

What happens to plastic collected in Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham Boroughs?

All plastics that you put in your mixed recycling bin or box is delivered to the re3 Material Recycling Facility in Reading. There, your plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays are sorted into 4 grades then baled. These go to a plastic recycling reprocessor for further sorting, shredding and cleaning. Later on sorted items are turned into plastic pellets and flakes ready to be manufactured into new products. Currently our plastic materials are recycled in the UK.

What happens to the other plastic I put in my general waste bin?

Most of your general waste is delivered to the Energy Recovery facility where is turned into electricity.

For more guidance visit: www.re3.org.uk

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PLASTIC RECYCLING GUIDE

good to know

When you recycle, you are helping to protect the environment and turning your waste into a resource!

Recycling is three times cheaper than disposal of the same amount of general waste.

Each time you recycle, you generate savings that help to maintain services that matters to you e.g. education, adult care or green spaces.


zeroing in on waste


Bracknell
Forest
Council


Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you


WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

WHAT PLASTIC CAN I PUT IN MY RECYCLING BIN OR BOX?



- ✓ Drink bottles
- ✓ Milk bottles
- ✓ Cooking oil bottles
- ✓ Skincare and soap bottles
- ✓ Bleach bottles
- ✓ Washing up and cleaning bottles



- ✓ Fruit, meat and vegetable trays (not black)
- ✓ Margarine tubs
- ✓ Yoghurt pots
- ✓ Soup pots
- ✓ Ice-cream tubs
- ✓ Sweet tubs



- ✓ Cartons (tetrapaks) such as milk, juice or soup



Not sure?

Download our handy app today
re3cyclopeda



PUT A SPIN ON YOUR RECYCLING HABITS

1. Wash and squash your plastic items. Remove all food, liquids and plastic film (tops and labels can stay on).
2. Make it easy to recycle by having a designated space for recycling.



Top tip
A quick rinse in dish water is all that is needed. Let it dry to not wet your paper and cardboard.



Top tip
Dual bins are a great space saver. If you are unable to get one you can use old basket, tray or bag and hang it on the door.

What else you can recycle:



WHAT PLASTIC CANNOT BE RECYCLED AT HOME?



- ✗ Black plastic (ie. takeaway trays)
- ✗ Crisp packets and sweet wrappers
- ✗ Bread bags
- ✗ Toilet and kitchen roll wrappers
- ✗ Carrier bags
- ✗ Food pouches
- ✗ Coffee cups
- ✗ Fresh and frozen fruit and veg bags
- ✗ Bubble wrap and cling film
- ✗ Trigger tops and soap dispenser tops
- ✗ Film lids from fruit and veg trays
- ✗ Polystyrene packaging (inc. takeaways and cups)
- ✗ Plant or paint pots



Top tip
Many plastic items can be recycled at the supermarkets or via TerraCycle!

REDUCE SINGLE USE PLASTICS!

Whilst plastic is a useful material, there are many ways to reduce its use in your everyday routine. Simple swaps such as: carrying a reusable bottle or shopping bag can help you greatly reduce your plastic waste. Also consider swaps into: reusable wipes, silicon or beeswax food wrap, bamboo toothbrushes and use metal cutlery or straws instead of disposables ones.