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General Recycling Information



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



CUPRUM



HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING

The four main materials collected in a mixed bin collection system, usually either a blue or green bin are-

PAPER
FOOD AND DRINK CANS
CARDBOARD
PLASTIC BOTTLES

In some areas the recycling bin will only take paper, but most areas now offer a greater range of materials.

Those areas that have a Kerbie box collection scheme usually take-

FOOD AND DRINK CANS
PLASTIC BOTTLES
GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS
TEXTILES
HAND TOOLS
ALUMINIUM FOIL
PAPER
CARD

In some areas there is a box for all materials except paper, which goes in a blue recycling bin and some areas don't take card. In other areas a two box system operates, with a red and black boxes used.

To be sure, if you live in an area that has a Kerbie Box scheme, check online at www.brysonrecycling.co.uk in the Home section.

PLASTIC BOTTLES

The only plastics collected from domestic waste to be recycled are **plastic bottles**, of which there are two types.

Drink bottles are made from PET (**Polyethylene terephthalate**). They are clear and usually have the following symbol on them somewhere.



The number relates to the quality of the plastic. PET is therefore the highest quality and the most valuable.

PET is recycled into fleeces and other clothing, carpet backing and stuffing for quilts.

The bottles that contain bleach, washing up liquid, etc are made from HDPE (**High-density polyethylene**). They are marked with the following symbol.



They are the second highest quality.

HDPE is recycled into water pipes, guttering and garden furniture.

THESE ARE THE ONLY TYPES OF PLASTIC COLLECTED FOR RECYCLING CURRENTLY IN NORTHERN IRELAND.

Remember this simple question – Is it a **bottle** made from **plastic**?

If the answer is yes, it is a plastic bottle it can be recycled. If it's a plastic tray, tub, pot etc it cannot be recycled.

IGNORE the symbols on packaging, they only mislead people. All plastic containers will show a recycling symbol, but currently only PET and HDPE are collected for recycling in N.I.

The bottles are first processed in Antrim. Here any non-bottle plastic is removed and they are bailed for recycling in the UK, Europe and the Far East.

It may seem a wasteful process exporting bottles to China and Hong Kong, but we import a lot from the Far East, but export very little to them. Many of the container ships that brought the products from China return empty. These empty containers are filled with our plastic bottles.

Once they reach their destination, they are chipped and washed to remove any glue, labels or other contamination. Sometimes the bottles are sorted into PET and HDPE before chipping. This can be done by hand or automatically using x-rays or lasers. If they haven't already been sorted, the chips are passed through a water tank; HDPE floats and PET sinks.



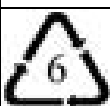

The chips are then made into pellets for ease of transport and processed into new products.

REMEMBER ONLY PLASTIC BOTTLES from domestic waste. Other plastics may be collected at your local household recycling centre or amenity site.

If you look very closely at the recycling symbol on plastic packaging, they all have a number in the middle. The lower grade plastics are numbered 3 – 7.

OTHER PLASTICS

	PVC	Polyvinyl chloride - Food trays and cling film.
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	LDPE	Low density polyethylene - Carrier bags and bin liners.
	PP	Polypropylene - Margarine tubs, microwaveable meal trays.
	PS	Polystyrene - Yoghurt pots, foam meat or fish trays, hamburger boxes and egg cartons, vending cups, plastic cutlery, protective packaging for electronic goods and toys.
	OTHER	Any other plastics that do not fall into any of the above categories. - An example is melamine, which is often used in plastic plates and cups.

FOOD AND DRINK CANS

In general food cans are made from steel and drink cans from aluminium, although this isn't always the case.

Aluminium cans have a shiny bottom, are marked with the alu symbol (shown below), and do not stick to a magnet.



Aluminium cans are sent to Warrington near Liverpool for recycling, where they are made into new drinks cans.

Steel cans are dull in colour, a magnet will stick to them and are marked with the following symbol.



Steel cans are sold on the general steel market. Most will go to Corus in Teeside to be recycled. They can end up as part of any steel product e.g. steel for construction and some do end up as new cans. Every steel can is between a quarter and a third recycled steel.

PAPER

Paper collected by Bryson in Northern Ireland is sent to Paper Mills in Wales, England and Norway where it is recycled back into paper to make new newspapers.

Some paper is also recycled into egg boxes, drink holders and other moulded cardboard products. This is mostly paper from industry and phone books.

CARD

Card is sold to the general market where it is recycled into new cardboard and low quality paper packaging.



This symbol is often displayed on cardboard packaging is the RESY recycling symbol (above). This symbol guarantees that packaging with this symbol is recyclable and will be accepted by cardboard recyclers.

If the symbol has a % inside instead of RESY, the number indicates the percentage recycled card in the product.

GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS

Glass bottles and jars are sorted into different colours and crushed to make cullet. Contamination is removed by washing and magnets are used to remove steel e.g. lids from jars. The cullet is melted and formed into new bottles and jars.

Clear glass is the highest quality, followed by green glass and then brown.

Bottle banks and kerbside collections only want bottles and jars. Glass used in windows, drinking glasses etc is a different type to the glass used in bottles and jars.

Other common contaminants are ceramics e.g. plates, mugs, bowls and Pyrex.

The glass-recycling symbol on the next page aims to remind people to recycle all their glass bottles and jars.



TEXTILES

High quality clothes are reused by Oxfam, The Salvation Army etc either being sold in their charity shops to raise funds or are sent overseas e.g. to Africa.

Low quality clothes are recycled in Northern Ireland by Cookstown Recycling to make sound proof padding for cars. Other companies recycle old clothes into cleaning cloths for industry and dusters.

ALUMINIUM FOIL

Foil is a different type of aluminium to the used to make cans. It is a higher quality alloy and is used to make car engine blocks, bicycle frames and new foil.

HAND TOOLS

If hand tools are collected, they are refurbished by Tools for Solidarity in North Belfast. One cleaned, repaired and sharpened if necessary, they are put into kits e.g. blacksmith, carpenter, and farmer and sent to East Africa.

The kits allow local people to earn a living and produce their own food rather than having to depend on handout to get them out of poverty.

OTHER SYMBOLS ON PACKAGING

The Green Dot



Another symbol often appearing on packaging is the 'Green Dot' (above). This does not have any environmental significance, meaning only that the manufacturer has paid a fee towards the packaging recovery system in another European country.

THIS IS NOT A RECYCLING SYMBOL!

Compostable



This is a new symbol and indicates that the material can be safely composted in a domestic compost heap. It is found on packaging for fruit and vegetables, especially organic produce.

Ecosymbol



The European Eco-label has been developed by the European Union to encourage the development of products with minimal impact on the environment. It is a voluntary scheme and the 'flower' symbol is awarded to products that meet a set of stringent environmental and performance criteria. These criteria take into account all aspects of a product's life, from its production and use to its eventual disposal (cradle-to-grave approach). About 400 products - from washing machines to footwear - currently carry the label. Packaging is included in this life cycle analysis where it is integral to the product, such as washing up liquid or laundry detergents