

# So what happens to your waste?



Recycling transforms your household waste into an amazing array of objects from clothes to furniture! But where is it taken once it leaves your kerbside, how is it sorted and what is it made into? It's all taken to a Materials Recycling Facility, sorted, then taken to processors to be made into a variety of products:

## Mixed Paper / Waxy Cartons

Sorted into grades - the best grades are made into newspaper. The lower grades are re-cycled into the type of cardboard seen on the back of jig-saw puzzles and packaging.

## Cardboard

This is made into new cardboard.

## Plastic Bottles

It takes just 25 two litre pop bottles to make one adult size fleece jacket

## Plastic carrier bags

150 million are used in the UK each week - they take up to 500 years to decay in landfill! Re-use them or take a cloth bag to the shops.

## Paper

On average, each person in the UK uses over 200kg of paper per year. Only 61% of this is recycled, so let's try a bit harder!

Paper and cardboard is **hand sorted**.

A strong **magnet** grabs steel cans, aluminium cans are sorted by **eddy currents** (energy field).

## Aluminium Cans

Re-melted into new cans and metal items

## Plastics

These are ground up to be made into new plastic items like telephones, recycling boxes, drain pipes (not new plastic bottles though). Low grade plastics are re-cycled into black bags.

An **optical sorter** separates different plastics by density type.

Carrier bags are **vacuumed** off the sorting line - the amount of carrier bags taken in a week can weigh as much as a family car!

## Aluminium

It takes only 5% of the energy to recycle aluminium as it takes to make it new! Just one recycled can saves enough energy to run a TV for 3 hours!

## Glass

Making new containers from recycled glass saves energy - the saving from recycling one bottle will power a colour TV for 15 minutes!

## Steel

Steel cans are recycled into new metal items like bicycles and trains. We use on average 600 steel cans per year at home! Most still go in landfill - we must recycle more of them!

## Textiles

Unusable items are incinerated - the energy generated is used to make cement. Please take re-useable textiles to charity shops.

Whole bottles and jars are **hand sorted** initially and then **trammed** to separate the small pieces of glass from the rest of the recyclable waste.

**Please do not wrap broken glass for recycling- this increases the sorting time.**

