



factsheet

ENVIRONMENT MATTERS

PLASTICS INFORMATION SHEET

Types

There are about 50 different groups of plastics, with hundreds of different varieties. In theory all plastics can be recycled but will depend on the available technology and markets for the recycled material. A system of identification was produced by the American Society of Plastics to make sorting and thus recycling easier.

Recycling plastic helps to:

- reduce the amount of waste in landfill - plastic may take up to 500 years to decompose
- conserve non-renewable natural resources (plastic is made from crude oil)
- save energy

Plastics Recycling — Frequently Asked Questions

What plastics does Charnwood accept?

Currently residents can recycle plastic items which display the following logos, but please note that large blocks of polystyrene cannot be accepted.



PLASTIC INFORMATION SHEET



There may be occasions when certain items listed cannot be collected, such as when they are too large for processing.

Should I remove lids from the bottles?

Yes, lids are often made from a different type of plastic to the rest of the bottle and will therefore have different chemical properties. If the two are recycled together chemical reactions occur affecting the end product. Lids should still be put into the green bin, but separate from the bottle.

Do I need to wash out my plastic bottles?

Yes, after using your plastic bottle it should be rinsed out in used washing-up water.

At the moment in the UK most sorting for mechanical recycling is done by trained staff who manually sort the plastics. Technology is being introduced to sort plastics automatically, using various techniques such as X-ray fluorescence, infrared and near infrared spectroscopy, electrostatics and flotation

Where do my plastic bottles I send for recycling end up?

After the contents of the green recycling bin are collected, they are sent to Viridor's facilities. Automated and mechanical techniques are used to separate different types of plastic.

Manual Recycling

After the plastic is sorted it is either melted down directly and moulded into a new shape, or melted down after being shredded into flakes and then processed into granules called regranulate.



PLASTIC INFORMATION SHEET

Chemical or feedstock recycling

The other alternative method of recycling plastic is to use a number of recovery techniques. These break down polymers into their constituent monomers, which in turn can be used again in refineries, or petrochemical and chemical production.

End Products	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bin liners and carrier bags • plastic bottles • flooring and window frames • building insulation board • video and compact disc cassette cases • fencing and garden furniture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water butts, garden sheds and composters • seed trays • fleeces • fibre filling for sleeping bags and duvets • variety of office accessories

Links

- www.bpf.co.uk - British Plastics Federation
- www.recoup.org - RECOUP (Recycling of used plastics Ltd) -
- www.save-a-cup.co.uk - Save-A-Cup Recycling Co Ltd
- www.apme.org - APME (Association of Plastics Manufacturers in Europe)
- www.recyclenow.com

If you require more information please contact:

Environmental Services, Charnwood Borough Council, Southfields, Loughborough, LE11 2TN.

PLASTIC INFORMATION SHEET

Tel: 01509 634563, E-mail: Cleaner.greener@charnwood.gov.uk

This information is available in different formats. To access these please phone (01509) 634560.

এ তথ্যাদি অন্যান্য মাধ্যমে পাওয়া যায়। এসব পেতে হলে দয়া করে (01509) 634560 এ নাম্বারে টেলিফোন করুন।

這資料具不同的格式，請致電 (01509) 634560 索取。

आ भाषिती जूही जूही पद्धतिओमां उपलब्ध छे. ते भेणववा भाटे कृपा करी आ नंभर पर क्षेत्र करो (01509) 634560.

यह जानकारी अलग-अलग प्रारूपों में मिल सकती है। इनको पाने के लिये कृपया यह नंबर डायल कीजिये (01509) 634560.

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਖ-ਵੱਖ ਸ਼ਕਲਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਹਾਮਿਲ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ (01509) 634560

