

# Recycle Week

## What is Recycle Week?

Recycle Week is an annual event (usually in June) which has been running since 2004. It is a time to remind people of all the things that can be recycled. Each year has a theme, for example: The Unusual Suspects - common household items that often get forgotten about, and instead of being recycled, they are thrown away. These include items such as containers, shampoo and conditioner bottles, bleach bottles, tissue boxes and deodorant cans.



## What is recycling?

Recycling is when objects made from glass, steel, paper, cardboard, certain plastics and even waste food, are taken to a recycling plant and turned into other things. Therefore, they are used again, recycled into something else and not just thrown away into a landfill.



## Why is it important to recycle?

It is important to recycle for these reasons:

### 1 Recycling conserves resources

When we recycle, used materials are converted into new products, reducing the need to consume natural resources. Natural resources come straight from the earth, so if we can recycle products already made, we reduce the need to use fresh, raw material through mining and forestry.

### 2 Recycling saves energy

Using recycled materials in the manufacturing process uses a lot less energy than that needed for producing new products from raw materials – even when comparing all the extra costs, like transport.

### 3 Recycling helps to protect the environment

Recycling reduces the need for extracting (mining, quarrying and logging), refining and processing raw materials all of which create a large amount of air and water pollution.

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#### 4 Recycling reduces landfill

Landfill sites are huge areas where rubbish that isn't recycled is dumped. They need a lot of space. The rubbish takes years to rot and while it is doing that, these sites produce a quarter of the UK's emissions of methane, a powerful and dangerous greenhouse gas. There are over 1,500 landfill sites in the UK.



#### Did you know?

- Both metal and glass can be recycled again and again without loss of quality.
- Around 95% less energy is used to make products from recycled materials than using raw materials.
- If we recycle all the steel packaging we use in a year, it would save enough energy to make over 50,000 return train journeys between London and Edinburgh!
- Recycling one drinks can could save enough energy to power a TV for four hours.

#### Other recycled materials

Clothing and textiles can be recycled: bedding, old underwear, damaged clothing and faded curtains can be recycled and made into new items, such as padding for chairs and car seats, cleaning cloths and industrial blankets.

- Check to see if your council collects clothes and textiles to be recycled.
- Some charities collect clothing and textiles for recycling, check with your local store or on the bags that come through the door.
- Clothing and textile banks are often in supermarkets and local car parks - check to see if they take items for recycling.

Foods that can be recycled are: peelings, tea bags, bread, pastries, out of date foods, rice, pasta, beans, meat, fish and waste food left on plates. It can then be used as fertilizer on farms.

#### How can we recycle?

Whenever we use a plastic or glass container, we need to wash it out and put it in a separate bag from our other rubbish. Then put the recycling items into a blue wheelie bin or take it to a recycling collection point, and that's it! We can all do our bit to help the planet and save the environment for generations to come.

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# Questions About Recycle Week

1. In your own words, explain what Recycle Week is.

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2. Why do you think people often forget about recycling some common household objects?

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3. What does the phrase '**reducing the need to consume natural resources**' mean?

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4. Explain your understanding of how recycling saves energy?

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5. What problems are there with having landfills?

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6. Which materials are the most suitable for being recycled many times?

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7. What options are there for recycling clothing and textiles?

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8. Name some products that textiles can be recycled into.

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9. If you were trying to convince people to recycle, what arguments would you use to try and persuade them.

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10. Write a set of instructions to tell people how they can recycle one item.

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# Questions About Recycle Week

## Answers

1. In your own words, explain what Recycle Week is.

**Own explanation**

2. Why do you think people often forget about recycling some common household objects?

**People forget because common household objects are often things they do not use in the kitchen so they forget to put it in the recycling bag/ box/ bin.**

3. What does the phrase 'reducing the need to consume natural resources' mean?

**The need to cut down the use of natural resources.**

4. Explain your understanding of how recycling saves energy?

**Recycling saves energy because turning products that already exist into something new uses a lot less energy than making something from the start.**

5. What problems are there with having landfills?

**The problem is that they produce a dangerous gas called methane and take up a lot of space that could be used for other things.**

6. Which materials are the most suitable for being recycled many times?

**Glass and steel are the most suitable materials because they don't lose their quality.**

7. What options are there for recycling clothing and textiles?

**Clothing and textiles can be taken to a charity shop or see if the council will collect them or take them to a recycling point at a supermarket or a car park.**

8. Name some products that textiles can be recycled into.

**Textiles can be recycled in to padding for chairs and car seats, cleaning cloths and industrial blankets.**

9. If you were trying to convince people to recycle, what arguments would you use to try and persuade them.

**Recycling is important because it saves energy, the environment, resources and  
Own response**

10. Write a set of instructions to tell people how they can recycle one item.

- a. **Decide if it can be recycled.**
- b. **Wash the container out.**
- c. **Put it in a recycling bag.**
- d. **Take it to a recycling point or put it in the blue wheelie bin.**