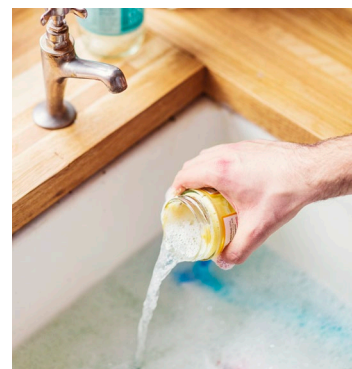


Wash

Please only put clean items in your green bin. Save water by rinsing your items in leftover washing up water once you've done the dishes. Excessive Food residue ruins paper and card, meaning it can't be recycled effectively, as well as attracting vermin. Whilst we collect your waste every 2 weeks, it can then take several weeks from us collecting it before it starts being made into new products, and this can cause problems for all the people who have to work with it along the journey.



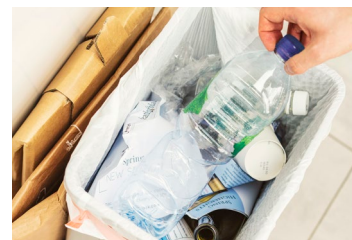
Squash

Squash cardboard, plastic bottles and tins to make more space in your green bin. **Handy tip - take the lid off plastic bottles before you squash them and then put the lid back on to stop them reinflating.**



No bags please!

Please do not put your recycling into bags as they cannot be recycled and neither can the items in the bag. If you do collect items in a bag, tip them loose into your recycling bin and reuse the bag to avoid putting it in your refuse bin.



What if I've got it wrong?

Our collection teams may check green recycling bins to make sure items that cannot be recycled do not get collected.

It is important to ensure the contents of the bin are not spoiled by non-recyclable items reducing the quality of the materials and in some cases rendering them useless. This increases our contamination rate, which is the percentage of recyclable waste not able to be recycled which is reported nationally. It also increases the cost of disposal.

We may not empty bins that contain non-recyclable material, which will then require residents to remove the contaminated items before the next scheduled collection. Please work with us by referring to our website and recycling leaflet if you are unsure.



How do I check if an item is recyclable?

To check if an item is recyclable and accepted in your recycling bin please refer to our [website](#) and [leaflet](#) or for items not listed here visit [A to Z of recycling | Worcestershire County Council](#).



Recycling is great but prevent waste in the first place

Whilst recycling can turn our waste into new products or energy, reducing the amount of waste we create in the first place is even better. An easy way to do this is to shop smart when you go to the supermarket.

1. Take your own bags when you go shopping:

this means you avoid using plastic bags unnecessarily and paying the charge.

2. Plan your meals and make a list before going shopping:

this will help you to avoid overbuying and buying things you don't need.

3. Buy refills:

buying refills of detergents, coffee, and hand wash is more environmentally friendly and it's usually cheaper.

4. Avoid excess packaging:

packaging adds cost to goods, and excess packaging is wasteful and not good for the environment. Look for unpackaged products or buy products that are packaged in recyclable material.

5. Avoid disposable items:

buy rechargeable batteries, low energy light bulbs, and razors with interchangeable heads.



Common Recycling Myths

"Recycling all goes to landfill or abroad."

Not true. Most recycling is processed here in the UK, but any recycling going to other countries is checked by the Environment Agency to make sure it is going to a reputable reprocessor.

"Recycling uses more energy than it saves."

Not true. Up to 95% less energy is needed to make products using recycled materials. Recycling 1 aluminium can saves enough energy to run a TV for 4 hours.

"Rinsing out recyclables is a waste of water and energy."

Not true. This stops other recyclables from being contaminated. Reuse the water from your washing up or pop them in the dishwasher if there is space.

"You need to understand the recycling symbols and numbers found on plastic items."

Not true. Not true. The number in a triangle only identifies the type of plastic used to make the item, not whether it can be recycled or not.

"All waste just ends up in the same lorry."

Not true. Bromsgrove District Council has an "alternate week" collection system, one week your refuse is collected and the next recycling. They do use the same lorries, but they are thoroughly cleaned out before being used to collect recycling.

"Councils are making money out of the materials we recycle."

Not true. Some materials have a value, but the cost of collecting and sorting them outweighs the income. Overall, recycling help saves money because other methods of waste disposal are more expensive.

"It doesn't matter if I put the wrong things in my green bin, it all gets sorted out anyway."

Not true. If you put the wrong things in your recycling, you risk contaminating the other recyclable material. If in doubt, leave it out.

"The council will charge you for another recycling bin."

Not true. You can have as many recycling bins that you feel you need within reason and providing the recycling isn't created by a Commercial Business. Please visit our website for further information.

"I can put my recycling in a plastic bag in the bin."

Not true. Some households that don't have space for a green bin, are given sacks. At our sorting facility in Norton these bags are split, and the recycling removed. If you put your recycling in a plastic bag and then put the bag in your green bin, they cannot see the contents and may risk getting hurt when opening the sack.

"You have an Energy from Waste facility now, surely, it's better to burn the recycling and use it to generate electricity?."

Not true. All materials that are recycled are made into something new. Paper, plastics, glass, and metal cans can be recycled repeatedly. It is also more expensive to process material at the Energy from Waste facility than recycle them.

"The Energy from Waste facility puts dangerous chemicals into the atmosphere."

Not true. The Environment Agency monitors the gases that are created through the combustion process and ensures that strict limits on emissions are adhered to. The "smoke" that you see from the chimney stack is steam, making it more visible on colder days.