

Recycling Plastics Facts Sheet



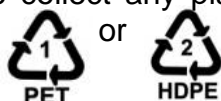
Why does the collection service say plastic bottles only?

The reason for this is that bottles are very easy to identify and are easily separated into three polymer (plastic) types:

- PET (e.g. fizzy drink bottles and squash bottles);
- HDPE (e.g. milk and juice bottles (natural HDPE) and detergent bottles (coloured HDPE));and
- PVC (e.g. large squash bottles and water dispenser bottles).

Why can't I put in things like yoghurt pots and margarine tubs?

Council is unable to collect any plastic packaging apart from plastic bottles that are labelled as



You may have had other packaging collected in the past but this was collected and disposed of by the Council as a gesture of good will. However, as more and more people throughout the Borough start recycling it has become an almost impossible task for our collection crews to sort through the plastics and separate the bottles from the rest of the packaging. This makes the service slower and more costly.

I have plastic packaging labelled as



why can't this be recycled?

The plastic that makes up these items is almost always of a lower quality than that which makes making up plastic bottles. This can have a very bad effect when it comes to recycling the plastics and sometimes can even mean whole loads of plastic bottles sent for recycling end up in landfill. This has not happened in Kingston yet, but may do if the contamination continues.

What do I have to do with my bottles before I recycle them?

Please rinse and squash your plastic bottles before putting them in your green box. Rinsing the bottles maintains the quality of the collected plastic and stops any nasty smells while you store your bottles.

What do I do with the bottle tops?

Please take the tops off the bottles and discard them. They are made from a different type of plastic and can reduce the value of the collected plastic if left on. There is no need to remove the small collar left by the top, as plastic reprocessors can cope with these being left on.

Do I need to take the labels off my bottles?

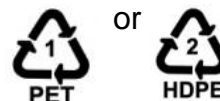
No. The labels will come off during the recycling process. The bottles will be thoroughly washed and then chopped up. The labels will disintegrate and be removed in the washing process.







What can I do with all of my carrier bags?

Kingston is not able to recycle carrier bags and should only be used in the green box to separate different types of recyclables. Carrier bag recycling facilities are starting to appear in supermarkets across the country. Please check with your local supermarket.

Plastics Identification Chart

Below is a guide to the different plastic types and symbols that they have on them. Please remember only to recycle plastic bottles with and not other types of plastic packaging even if they show the same symbol.



Polymer Type	Polymer Identification Code	Some common examples	Accepted for Recycling
Polyethylene terephthalate	 PET	Fizzy drink bottles, water bottles, mouthwash bottles, shampoo and conditioner bottles	Yes please!
High density polyethylene	 HDPE	Detergent bottles, bleach bottles, milk bottles	Yes please!
Polyethylene terephthalate or High density polyethylene	 PET HDPE	In formats other than those described above	No thanks
Polyvinyl chloride	 PVC	Pipes and fittings, tubing, credit cards, cable sheathing	No thanks
Polyvinyl chloride	 PVC	Pipes and fittings, tubing, credit cards, cable sheathing	No thanks
Low density polyethylene	 LDPE	Refuse sacks, bubble wrap	No thanks
Polypropylene	 PP	Bottle tops, syrup bottles, yoghurt and margarine containers, drinking straws, ice-cream containers, flower pots	No thanks
Polystyrene	 PS	Fast food trays, plastic egg containers, hot drink cups, insulation	No thanks
Unallocated references	 07-19	Used on items made from unallocated polymer blends. Although a 'recycling triangle' is shown, the symbol is used here as a material identification code and does not mean that it can be recycled.	No thanks

