

RECYCLING



In recent years there has been much improvement in the recycling services that local councils offer homes in the UK. Many items are now collected at the kerbside and there are also small-scale recycling facilities located in most towns and villages. This is not consistent across the country, however, and we have provided some information below, which we hope will be useful if you require more information on recycling specific items. We have tried to list more commonly recycled items as well as slightly more obscure ones.

PRODUCT LIST

ALUMINIUM – Most kerbside collections include aluminium cans, many include aerosols and some include items such as kitchen foil. UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/aluminium_recycling.html

BATTERIES – Household batteries are sometimes collected at kerbside or at **RECYCLING CENTRES** (see below). UK Energy Saving - <http://www.uk-energy-saving.com/battery-recycling.html>

BOOKS – Second hand books can often be sold if in good condition, or alternatively they can be donated to a local hospital or charity (see **CHARITY RECYCLING** below). UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/book-recycling.html

CARPETS – Some **RECYCLING CENTRES** collect carpets or you could donate them to a furniture re-use project. UK Energy Saving - <http://www.uk-energy-saving.com/carpet-recycling.html>, Furniture Re-Use Network - www.frn.org.uk

COMPUTERS – Computers should be disposed of carefully and any personal information deleted. Many organisations also refurbish computers, often for reuse in developing countries. UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/computer_recycling.html; Waste Online - www.wasteonline.org.uk – list of computer recyclers and refurbishers.

CLOTHES – Clothes banks are often available at **RECYCLING CENTRES** (see below) or you could donate clothing to charity (see **CHARITY RECYCLING** section below). UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/clothes_recycling.html

ELECTRICALS & ELECTRONICS – The Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE) means that there are new rules governing the disposal of this kind of waste, so it is worth checking with your local council to see what you need to do. UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/waste_electrical_electronic_equipment.html; Environment Agency - www.environment-agency.gov.uk

GLASS – Many local authorities collect glass bottles and jars (not sheet glass) from the kerbside, but if this is not the case, check out your local **RECYCLING CENTRES** (see below). UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/glass_recycling.html

GLASSES – Vision Aid Overseas collects prescription glasses for distribution in developing countries. UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/recycling-glasses.html; Vision Aid Overseas - www.vao.org.uk

INK CARTRIDGES – Many ink cartridges can be refilled and reused, which will also save you money. Some charities will actually collect cartridges from you free of charge. UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/ink_cartridge_recycling.html; UK Cartridge Remanufacturers Association - www.ukcra.com

MOBILE PHONES – These can be recycled or refurbished, in which case they are often used in developing countries. You could try selling your phone, for example on Ebay (www.ebay.co.uk), or look into **CHARITY RECYCLING** (see below). UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/mobile_phone_recycling.html

OIL – It is very important not to allow waste oil to enter the waterways. Oil can, however, be cleaned and reused so take it to your nearest oil recycling centre. UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/oil_recycling.html; Oil Bank Line - www.oilbankline.org.uk; Environment Agency - www.environment-agency.gov.uk

PAINT – Paint should not be allowed to enter the waterways and should be recycled responsibly. Some **RECYCLING CENTRES** (see below) recycle paint or look out for a Community Repaint project. UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/paint-recycling.html; Community Repaint - www.communityrepaint.org.uk

PAPER – Different types of paper are often collected at the kerbside or, alternatively, there are many paper recycling banks. Check with your local authority if you are not sure. See **KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS** and **RECYCLING CENTRES** below. UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/waste_paper_recycling.html

PLASTIC – Kerbside recycling of plastics varies greatly, with some authorities collecting only some types of plastic. This can be very confusing so check carefully what is collected and what recycling bins are available in your area. This is a particularly important area in which we should all try to reduce the amount we use, so try and opt for products with as little packaging as possible and use reusable shopping bags. See **KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS** and **RECYCLING CENTRES** below. UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/plastic_recycling.html, www.uk-energy-saving.com/eco-friendly-bags.html

POLYSTYRENE – This can be reused at home, for example as a soil conditioner simply by breaking it into small pieces, or recycled. There are, however, only a limited number of recycling points in the UK for polystyrene. UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/polystyrene-recycling.com

SHOES – Check out the **CLOTHES** section above. Some **RECYCLING CENTRES** (see below) also have collection points for shoes. UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/shoe-recycling.html

SPECTACLES – See **GLASSES** above.

TETRA PAKS (CARTONS) – These are not very often collected at the kerbside but there are more and more recycling points springing up. Check with your local council for more information. See **RECYCLING CENTRES** below. UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/recycling_tetra_paks.html ; Tetra Pak Recycling - www.tetrapakrecycling.co.uk

TOYS – Toys in good condition can be recycled in a number of ways, by, for example, donating them to a local playgroup or hospital, offering them to a charity shop (see **CHARITY RECYCLING** below), or selling them at a jumble sale or on a site such as Ebay (www.ebay.co.uk). UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/recycle_toys.html

TYRES – Vehicle tyres can be recycled in a number of ways, either by being retread and reused, for drainage or by being ground down and used, for example, in playgrounds. Contact a local scrap yard or your council (see **RECYCLING CENTRES** below) for details of tyre disposal. UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/tyre_recycling.html; Tyre Recovery Association - www.tyrerecovery.org.uk

WOOD – How wood is recycled partly depends on the product no longer needed. Furniture could be sold or offered to charity (see **CHARITY RECYCLING** below), whilst waste wood can be used to make other products. UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/wood_recycling.html; Recycle Wood - www.recyclewood.org.uk

CHARITY RECYCLING

Recycling can also be an opportunity to help charities. Consider taking items such as clothing and household goods to your local charity shop or donating them to a jumble sale. Alternatively, you could offer items such as toys to local toy libraries, hospitals or playgroups.

More information at:

UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/charity_recycling.html; The Association of Charity Shops - www.charityshops.org.uk; The Furniture Re-Use Network - www.frn.org.uk

COMPOSTING

Composting is an excellent way of recycling food waste. Some local authorities will collect waste for composting; see the **KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS** section below for more information. Alternatively, you could compost in your garden, which not only means that you are recycling but will also save you money on shop-bought compost.

More information at:

UK Energy Saving website: Home Composting - www.uk-energy-saving.com/home_composting.html & Compost Bins - www.uk-energy-saving.com/compost_bins.html; The Composting Association - www.compost.org.uk

KERBSIDE COLLECTIONS

The items collected for recycling by local authorities differ widely, so you will need to check with your council to find out what they are able to take away for you.

More information at:

UK Energy Saving - www.uk-energy-saving.com/local_recycling.html; Recycle Now - www.recyclenow.com; Recycle More - www.recycle-more.co.uk - both have sections including details of kerbside collections and contact details for the local authority responsible for collections in your area.

RECYCLING CENTRES

Even villages often have some kind of public recycling centre in the form of the large recycling bins. These often take items such as glass and plastic bottles, textiles and cans.

More information at:

UK Energy Saving website: Local Recycling - www.uk-energy-saving.com/local_recycling.html & Recycling Centre - www.uk-energy-saving.com/recycling_centre.html; Recycle Now - www.recyclenow.com; Recycle More - www.recycle-more.co.uk

We trust that the information provided above has proved to be useful. If there is anything you feel that we have missed, please do not hesitate to contact us. Every effort is made to maintain the accuracy of this information, but UK Energy Saving cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

UK Energy Saving

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Information last reviewed – May 2009