

# How are plastic bottles recycled?



**printwaste**  
Sustainable Recycling

# Plastic bottle recycling step-by-step.



## Step 1: Collection

We'll collect your plastic bottles (mixed together with tins and cans) and transport them back to our recycling facility.

## Step 2: Sorting

Once there, we'll use a magnet to separate the steel tins and an eddy current to separate the aluminium cans from the plastic bottles. The bottles will then be sent on to a specialist plastics reprocessing plant.

*To find out more about what happens to your tins and cans, see their separate recycling process sheets.*

## Step 3: Shredding

At the plant, your plastic bottles will be shredded into flakes.

## Step 4: Cleaning

The flakes will then be washed to remove any impurities, like leftover food and drink or remnants of paper labels.

## Step 5: Melting & reforming

After this, the flakes will be dried and melted at temperatures of around 260°C, before being reformed into either pellets or fine spaghetti-like strands (dependent on what the plastic will be turned into).

## Step 6: Recycled plastic

The pellets and spaghetti-like strands will then be sent on to plastics manufacturers, who will turn them back into plastic bottles or other plastic products (such as clothing), ready to be sold all over again.



Did you know? It takes approximately 10 recycled plastic bottles to make a new t-shirt!

# We hope you found this useful & informative.

If you did, you'll be happy to know we have a whole bunch of process sheets for you...

## Recycling process sheets



Cans



Cardboard



Cartons



Paper cups



Glass



Wood



Plastics



Paper



Fluorescent light tubes



WEEE



Polystyrene



Tins



Non-recyclables

## Confidential shredding process sheets



Uniforms & clothing



Hard drives



Confidential paper

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