

How are paper cups recycled?



printwaste
Sustainable Recycling

Paper cup recycling step-by-step.



Step 1: Collection

We'll collect your paper coffee cups and transport them back to our recycling facility.

Step 2: Compressing & baling

Once there, we'll compress the cups into bales, ready to send to a specialist reprocessing plant.

Step 3: Pulping

At the plant, the cups will be fed up a conveyor belt, dropped into a pulper and mixed with water. This mixture will cause the plastic coating (the bit of the cup that prevents leakage) to separate from the paper fibres.

Step 4: Separating

The separated plastic coating will then float away from the pulped paper fibres, be cleaned, baled and sent on for recycling into new products or to create energy.

Step 5: Cleaning

Meanwhile, the leftover pulp will be transferred to a high-density cleaning drum to separate the healthy fibres from contaminants, such as stones and glass.

Step 6: Thickening

Now clean, the pulp will pass through a drum thickener, which will reduce the water content from 97.5% to 95% - the optimum level for the fibres to be recycled.

Step 7: Recycling

Ready for their onward journey, the paper cup fibres will be turned into paperboard, which is used to make coffee sleeves, coasters and a variety of other paper-based products.



Did you know? In the UK, less than 1% of paper coffee cups get recycled; at Printwaste, 100% of the cups we receive get recycled.

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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