

Carton Recycling

The UK's Beverage carton manufacturers produce 55'000 tonnes of cartons each year! Principally produced from trees, beverage cartons offer a great opportunity to reclaim their high quality, wood based fibres. The carton is a light weight, low resource use, energy saving packaging. 75% of drinks cartons in the UK are made from sustainably managed, Northern European forests. Cartons are the only beverage packaging to be made from a renewable resource, wood. Recycled, the cartons are transformed into a variety of paper based products.

Why recycle beverage cartons?

- Recycling helps to minimise the use of depleting natural habitats, such as rainforests .
- Producing energy requires use of fossil fuels - so pollution is reduced too.
- Cuts waste disposal costs.
- Less waste is dumped in landfill sites.
- There is an abundant supply of cardboard and paper.
- Cartons cannot be recycled indefinitely, but they can be recycled about six to eight times before fibres weaken.

The UK's first carton recycling plant was opened in 2003, run by leading recyclers Smith-Anderson and the Liquid Carton Manufacturing Association. After collection, the beverage cartons are pressed and baled up, ready for the next stage of pulping. The baled cartons are dropped into the pulper, where liquid is added. Within five minutes the essential fibre has been separated from other materials to form a thick brown/grey soup. Once separated the pulp is made into the paper products previously indicated.



Before you bin it:

Cartons are now collected by over 370 local authorities across the country, which equates to 86 per cent of UK and Guernsey local authority areas. Cartons must be rinsed out and dried, before pulling the “ears” out to flatten them. Any plastic pourers must be cut out and removed.

It is also possible to post beverage cartons to the ace uk collection site for recycling. The cartons must be packed into a cardboard box ready for postage. Labels are [available here](#) from the ace uk website.

Links:

www.recyclenow.com - For information on how your local authority collects beverage cartons.

www.tetrapakrecycling.co.uk - For further information on carton recycling.

www.ace-uk.co.uk - The body representing the beverage carton industry with regards to recycling, has information about postal recycling as well as labels.