

Glass Recycling

Glass is an environmentally friendly material to use as it can be recycled again and again without any loss of quality.

Why Recycle Glass?

- Cuts waste disposal costs.
- Less waste is sent to landfill sites.
- The amount of energy needed is 50% less than that needed to make glass from raw materials.
- Recycling glass creates 20% less air pollution than creating virgin glass.
- Reduces the need for quarrying new materials.
- Recycling centres have been set up to clean and process cullet (powdered glass) providing new jobs.

How to Recycle Glass

Step 1

Take refillable bottles back to the supplier. Milk bottles should be returned to the milkman and not put in bottle banks.

Step 2

Empty and rinse the containers. Remove any caps, corks and lids.

Step 3

Separate the glass and drop into the appropriate banks. **Blue** glass is put into the **green** bottle banks.

Step 4

Only glass bottles and jars can be recycled through a bottle bank. This includes containers that held food, pharmaceuticals, household items, beer and wine.



Step 5

Window glass, light bulbs, Pyrex cooking dishes and glass crockery should not be put into the glass recycling banks as they do not melt like ordinary glass and can result in a substandard end product.

Step 6

Do not take your glass to the recycling banks at night as it may disturb the neighbours.

Links:

www.recyclingglass.co.uk

Additional information on glass recycling (aimed at children)

<http://www.wasteonline.org.uk/resources/InformationSheets/Glass.htm>

Facts and figures, information on glass recycling in the uk.

What happens to glass when it is recycled:

Stage 1

Glass is collected from bottle banks and taken away to be cleaned.

Stage 2

The lids and labels are removed from the bottles.

Stage 3

The glass is then taken to a processing plant where it is crushed into fine chips of glass called 'cullet'.

Stage 4

The cullet is sent to a furnace where it is mixed with sand, limestone and soda ash and heated to 1200°C.

Stage 5

The molten glass is then moulded into bottles and jars.

Stage 6

The new empty bottles are sent to companies to fill them and sold on to supermarkets for you to buy, enjoy and recycle again.

Fascinating Facts

- In 1977 the first ever bottle bank in England was placed in Barnsley, Yorkshire. There are now over 25,000 bottle bank sites containing around 50,000 bottle banks all over the United Kingdom.
- Every bottle that is recycled saves enough energy to power a television for 20 minutes.
- For every tonne of glass that is recycled 1,330 pounds of sand, 433 pounds of soda ash and 433 pounds of limestone are saved.
- Recycling glass reduces air pollution by 14-20% and water pollution by 50%.
- The UK glass recycling rate is currently 35% while in Europe it is between 80-90%. This may be because in England, we average one bin to 2700 people, whereas in Europe the figure is one bin to every 1500 people.

Links

British Recycling Glass

Information on glass recycling aimed at children.

www.recyclingglass.co.uk

ACRE Glass Recycling

Information on glass recycling.

www.acrenet.force9.co.uk/glass.htm

British Glass

Information regarding all aspects of glass.

www.britglass.org.uk/index.html

WRAP

Future recycling initiatives for different types of glass

www.wrap.org.uk/materials/glass/