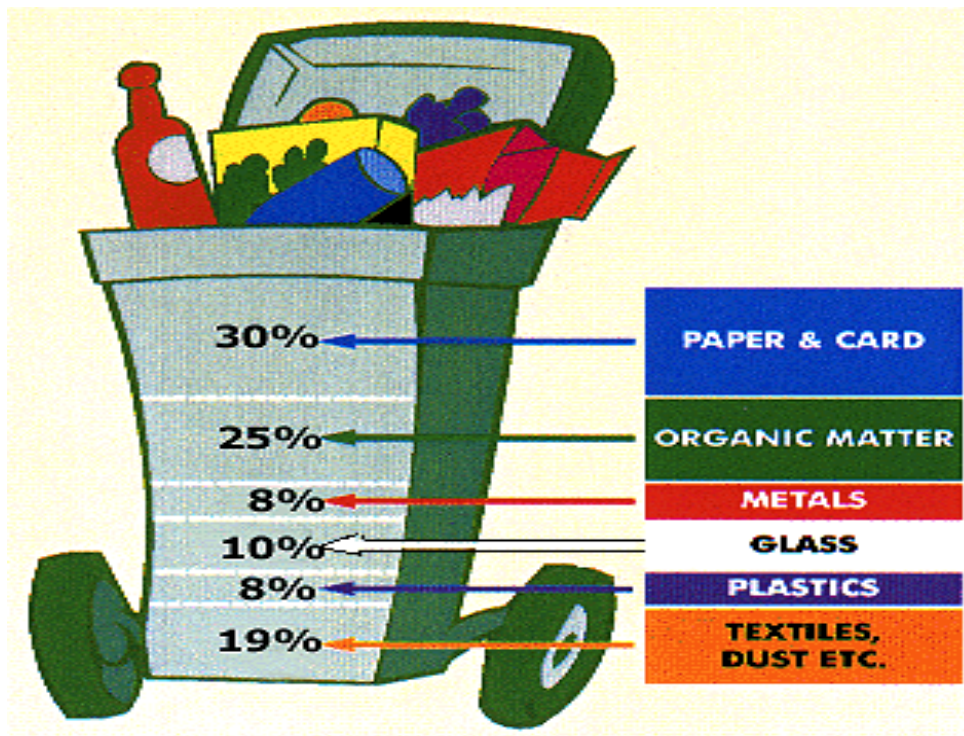


What's in your bin?

The average household bin contains:



Over 50% of the waste in our rubbish bins can be recycled, yet:

- **74%** of waste goes to landfill – this generates dangerous liquids and gases. Many landfill sites are nearly full and we are running out of suitable land to build new sites.
- **18%** of waste is recycled – saves landfill space, energy, import costs, raw materials and cuts air pollution.
- **8%** of waste is incinerated also known as energy from waste– this produces smoke, ash and dangerous chemicals such as dioxins, but usually amounts are so small they are not dangerous.

Why Recycle?

We all produce household waste, and most of this is buried in landfill sites – *large areas of land that are dug up, filled with rubbish and covered over again*. Not only does this look ugly but sites are becoming harder to find as we are rapidly running out of space. We throw away approximately 435 million tonnes of rubbish every year and about half of this could be usefully recycled.

Never before has recycling been so important, new legislation and investment by industry and local authorities mean that we must learn to recycle more of our household waste. We cannot stop the production of waste, but we can reduce its impact on our environment, protecting the countryside for the future. Most of what we put in the rubbish bin is made from products that are slowly running out, but, by recycling we can save our resources, save energy, save space and create jobs by generating new industries.

Fascinating Facts

- Approximately 1 million people are employed in the recycling industry worldwide.
- Over 20 million tonnes of rubbish are thrown away every year in the UK – approximately 1 tonne per household per year.
- Food cans are 50% lighter than 50 years ago.
- Millions of the items we recycle every year are collected in the form of recovered litter from shopping centres, roads, pavements, hedgerows, woods, fields and beaches.
- The volume of waste produced in the UK in one hour would fill the Royal Albert Hall. (Source: LGB Publications)
- In one year there would be enough waste to fill dustbins stretching from Earth to the Moon. (Source: LGB Publications)

