



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**
ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

FACTSHEET

Recycling Plastic Containers



Did you know that? ...

- Over 1.7 million tonnes of plastic waste is produced by households each year in the UK.
- 25% of this is currently recycled or recovered.

What are the benefits of recycling plastic containers?

- Less oil is used for plastic production.
- Less energy is consumed.

How do I recycle plastics?

- There are 50 different types of plastics.
- All of the district councils can accept plastics in the kerbside collection services. Please check with your district council as to which plastics can be accepted in your recycling container.

What do we accept at our Waste Recycling Centres?

- Most of our Waste Recycling Centres in Oxfordshire collect plastic containers for recycling.
- We collect and recycle PET and HDPE plastics.
- PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) plastics are transparent with hard moulded spot in the centre of the base labelled '1'. Examples include mineral water bottles and carbonated soft drinks.

- HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) plastics are opaque such as milk, juice and fabric softener bottles and are labelled '2'.
- These are the symbols for PET and HDPE plastic containers.



How is your plastic waste container recycled?

The plastic waste recycling process involves:

1. Bulking
 - Materials are bulked up to save energy and sent to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for sorting.
2. Sorting
 - Materials are separated using conveyors and trommels.
 - They are then sent to a picking station to be hand picked and separated further.
3. Packing and Compression
 - Materials are packed and compressed into bales.
 - Bales are sent to the open market, and they can be reprocessed into new plastic items such as: drain pipes, decking, and sign posts.

What else can you do?

- Try to avoid using individual portions by buying in bulk to reduce your packaging.
- Buy refillable or reusable plastic containers.

Contact: Oxfordshire County Council - Waste Management Team 08450 504550.

Email: waste.management@oxfordshire.gov.uk Website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

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