

Aluminium recycling facts



Did you know that aluminium can be recycled infinitely without losing any of its quality?

Aluminium is the third most abundant element making up around 8% of the earth's crust. The main ingredient of aluminium is bauxite. It is generally extracted by open cast mining. The bauxite ore is then refined to recover alumina. Alumina is then smelted to produce aluminium. Approximately four to five tonnes of bauxite produces one tonne of aluminium.

Once collected and delivered to EnviroSort, aluminium cans are sorted from your recyclables by an **Eddy Current Separator**, which works like a reverse magnet, repelling the cans into the aluminium bunker. When this bunker is full, the contents are baled, ready to be sent to reprocessors in the U.K.

Recycling one tonne of aluminium saves four tonnes of bauxite and nine tonnes of CO₂.

At EnviroSort last year, we sent out 845 tonnes of recycled aluminium, that's saving 3,380 tonnes of bauxite and 7,605 tonnes of CO₂.



What can't I recycle in kerbside collection and why?



Dirty cans with food/liquid waste *

These contaminate the recycling, particularly paper as any food/liquid residue is not able to be removed.

Aluminium foil, food containers and tin foil *

Aluminium foil is not recyclable within your green recycling bin. It is a lower grade aluminium and has to be processed separately.

Clean aluminium sheet foil and aluminium foil trays can be taken to a local Household Recycling Centre where they can be recycled in the scrap metal container.

Coffee pods *

These are too small for the machinery in most recycling centres plus they are made from a mix of plastic and aluminium which is very hard to recycle. Most coffee pod manufacturers should have their own recycling schemes.



Food pouches, crisp packets, chocolate wrappers etc. *

The shiny metallic inside crisp packets and food pouches might look like metal but it's usually plastic or a mix of plastic and aluminium.

Many "foil" lids such as those on yoghurt pots, aren't metal foil but plastic based. These cannot go in your green bin. If in doubt scrunch it up, if it unscrunches, it's made from plastic and can't be recycled.

Many of these items can be recycled via a supermarket soft plastics collection point.

Toothpaste tubes, tomato puree tubes etc. *

Although these are aluminium they cannot be recycled in green bin collections due to the product residue inside which is a contaminant.

Terracycle and some retailers run oral hygiene schemes for all types of oral hygiene products to include toothpaste tubes.



Needles and syringes **

Sometimes called "sharps". These sharp items are classed as clinical/medical waste and cannot be placed into your green bin as they are dangerous to staff working in the recycling centre.

Knives and pins **

These sharp items may cause injuries to staff working in the recycling centre. They can be secured and covered and placed in the metal container at your Household Recycling Centre.

*** All items unsuitable for the green bin which cannot be reused or recycled must be placed in your black bin.**

**** It is a person's own responsibility to dispose of these items safely and responsibly. They should not go into the green bin or into the black bin under any circumstances.**

No other metal such as saucepans, nails, screws, kettles, sandwich toasters, copper wire etc.

Take these to your local Household Recycling Centre. Staff will be able to advise which container these can be placed in.

Blister packs *

Blister packs can't be recycled in the green bin as the plastic foil and glue means they are classed as mixed materials. Plus the 2D appearance of blister packs means they may be mistaken for paper by the machinery and contaminate the paper stream.

Some pharmacies may operate a blister pack recycling scheme.

EnviroSort

Domestic green bin recycling across Herefordshire and Worcestershire

enquiries@severnwaste.co.uk



What can I recycle in my green bin?



Food tins/cans
Empty aerosol cans
Pet food tins/cans
Sweet tins
Biscuit tins
Metal lids
Drinks cans

Did you know?

You can leave the labels on.
You can push the lid/ring pull inside the can/tin.
Take the plastic lid off aerosols and place in your green bin separately.

Please don't squash cans, tins or aerosols. They need to remain 3D or they may get mistaken as 2D items and get sorted with paper, card and cartons.

Please ensure all aerosol cans are empty. Any full or partially full aerosols are considered hazardous and must be disposed of at a Household Recycling Centre.

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