

Glass recycling facts



Did you know as a material, glass can be continually recycled without losing any of its qualities?

Glass is made from natural raw materials such as **sand, soda ash and limestone** plus other additives for specific colours and finishes, that are melted at very high temperatures. Glass generally contains around 75% silica/sand. The raw ingredients have to be quarried so this impacts on the earth's resources, energy is used in their extraction, and in the glass making process.

Once collected and delivered to EnviroSort, glass bottles and jars are separated from your other recyclables by a **Glass Breaker** machine. Glass is broken into small pieces by moving along a series of rotating metal discs. The glass falls between the gaps into the discs and is stored in a container that goes to a glass reprocessor.

Recycling one tonne of glass can save 1.2 tonnes of raw materials. Plus 580kg CO₂ is saved throughout the supply chain, air pollution is reduced by 20% and water pollution cut by 50%.

At EnviroSort, we recycled 27,684 tonnes of glass last year. 33,221 tonnes of raw material and 16,056 tonnes of CO₂ were saved when compared with making fresh glass.



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



Drinking glasses and glass vases *

As these are generally made differently to container glass for glass bottles and jars they melt differently. If they are put into the green bin they will cause contamination if they are melted down with container glass.

Pyrex and glass cookware *

These items are borosilicate glass which help them withstand higher temperatures. They won't melt properly in standard glass furnaces.

Drinking glasses, vases and Pyrex/glass cookware can be taken to a charity shop if still usable.

Otherwise place it in your black bin.



Light bulbs *

Besides being made of a different type of glass, light bulbs also contain other materials.

Low energy bulbs and fluorescent tubes need to be recycled at your Household Recycling Centre/HRC. Older incandescent bulbs can't be recycled and need to be placed into your black bin.

Nail polish bottles *

These can't be recycled due to the contamination from the nail polish.



Spectacles/reading glasses *

The lenses are made from different glass to container glass, plus there are other components such as frames and metal fastenings. These either need to go to a charity collecting spectacles or into your black bin.

Mugs, plates, crockery etc.*

These items are classed as ceramics and not glass, so can't be recycled in your green bin. They won't melt in a glass furnace.

Pass them to a charity shop if they're still usable.



Window/greenhouse glass *

This glass has been laminated to make it tougher so it can't be recycled in your green bin.

Mirrors *

The metallic coating is a contaminant and shouldn't be mixed with other types of glass.

Please take to a charity shop if they're still usable.

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

EnviroSort

Domestic green bin recycling across Herefordshire and Worcestershire

enquiries@severnwaste.co.uk



What can I recycle in my green bin?



Glass bottles and glass jars

(Sometimes referred to as container glass, around 30% of all glass is classed as container glass)

Food jars

Make-up/moisturiser jars

Drinks bottles, i.e. wine, water etc

Perfume/fragrance bottles

These are mostly made of soda-lime-silica (sand) glass. They can all go in your green bin for recycling.

Please make sure your glass is clean, dry and loose when it goes into your green bin. Any liquid or food residue will contaminate other items, particularly paper.

Did you know?

You can leave the labels on.

You can leave the lids on.

You can recycle any colour of glass bottle or jar. These different colours of glass can be separated by using light at glass factories as part of their reprocessing.

Pump tops and trigger sprays need to be removed and placed into your black bin.

No corks please.

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