

# Recycle Week

## What is Recycle Week?

Recycle Week is an annual event (usually in June) which has been running since 2004. It is a time to remind people of all the things that can be recycled. Each year has a theme, for example: The Unusual Suspects - common household items that often get forgotten about, and instead of being recycled, they are thrown away. These include items such as containers, shampoo and conditioner bottles, bleach bottles, tissue boxes and deodorant cans.



## What is recycling?

Recycling is when objects made from glass, steel, paper, cardboard, certain plastics and even waste food, are taken to a recycling plant and turned into other things. Therefore, they are used again, recycled into something else and not just thrown away into a landfill.



## Why is it important to recycle?

It is important to recycle for these reasons:

### 1 Recycling conserves resources

When we recycle, used materials are made into new products, reducing the need to use natural resources. Natural resources come straight from the earth, so if we recycle products that are already made, we reduce the need to use fresh, raw material through mining and forestry.

### 2 Recycling saves energy

Using recycled materials in the manufacturing process uses a lot less energy than is needed for making new products from raw materials – even when you think of all the extra costs, like transport.

### 3 Recycling helps to protect the environment

Recycling reduces the need for mining materials from the ground. Changing these raw materials from one thing into another creates a large amount of air and water pollution.

#### 4 Recycling reduces landfill

Landfill sites are huge areas where rubbish that isn't recycled is dumped. They need a lot of space. The rubbish takes years to rot and while it is doing that, these sites give off methane, a powerful and dangerous greenhouse gas. There are over 1,500 landfill sites in the UK.



#### Did you know?

- Both metal and glass can be recycled again and again without loss of quality.
- If we recycle all the steel packaging we use in a year, it would save enough energy to make over 50,000 return train journeys between London and Edinburgh!
- Recycling one drinks can could save enough energy to power a TV for four hours.

#### Other recycled materials

Clothing and textiles can be recycled: bedding, old underwear, damaged clothing and faded curtains can be recycled and made into new items, such as padding for chairs and car seats, cleaning cloths and blankets.

- Check to see if your council collects clothes and textiles to be recycled.
- Some charities collect clothing and textiles for recycling, check with your local store or on the bags that come through the door.
- Clothing and textile banks are often in supermarkets and local car parks - check to see if they take items for recycling.

Foods that can be recycled are: peelings, tea bags, bread, pastries, out of date food, rice, pasta, beans, meat, fish and waste food left on plates. It can then be used as fertilizer on farms.

#### How can we recycle?

Whenever we use a plastic or glass container, we need to wash it out and put it in a separate bag from our other rubbish. Then put the recycling items into a blue wheelie bin or take it to a recycling collection point, and that's it! We can all do our bit to help the planet and save the environment for generations to come.



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# Questions About Recycle Week

1. In your own words, explain what Recycle Week is.

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2. What objects do people often forget about?

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3. What does the phrase '**reducing the need to use natural** ' mean?

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4. Explain your understanding of why recycling helps to protect the environment?

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5. Would you want to live near a landfill site? Explain your reason.

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6. Why are glass and steel suitable for being recycled many times?

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7. What can you do to recycle clothes and textiles?

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8. Name two more textiles that could be recycled.

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9. How would you try and persuade people to recycle?

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10. Write a set of instructions to tell people how they can recycle one item.

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# Questions About Recycle Week

## Answers

1. In your own words, explain what Recycle Week is.

**Own explanation**

2. What objects do people often forget about?

**People often forget shampoo bottles, conditioner bottles, tissue boxes, bleach bottles and deodorant cans.**

3. What does the phrase 'reducing the need to use natural ' mean?

**It means the need to use natural materials is less.**

4. Explain your understanding of why recycling helps to protect the environment?

**Recycling helps to protect the environment because changing the raw materials into something else pollutes the air and water.**

5. Would you want to live near a landfill site? Explain your reason.

**No, I wouldn't like to live near a landfill site because it would be smelly /dirty/ dangerous gas given off.**

6. Why are glass and steel suitable for being recycled many times?

**Glass and steel are suitable to be recycled because they don't lose their quality.**

7. What can you do to recycle clothes and textiles?

**I could take clothes and textiles to a charity shop/ supermarket recycling point/ put them in a charity bag on your doorstep.**

8. Name two more textiles that could be recycled.

**Other textiles that could be recycled are rugs, pillow cases, scarves, towels etc.**

9. How would you try and persuade people to recycle?

**Recycling is important because it saves energy, the environment, resources and**  
**Own response**

10. Write a set of instructions to tell people how they can recycle one item.

- a. Decide if it can be recycled.**
- b. Wash the container out.**
- c. Put it in a recycling bag.**
- d. Take it to a recycling point or put it in the blue wheelie bin.**