

SORT IT OUT! - PLASTIC RECYCLING

DID YOU KNOW...?

- Plastic makes up around 7% of the average household dustbin.
- The UK produces 3 million tonnes of plastic waste every year.
- All sorts of things can be made from recycled plastic including fleeces – it takes 25 two-litre plastic bottles to make one!
- Every year, an estimated 17½ billion plastic bags are given away by supermarkets, equivalent to over 290 bags for every person in the UK. Remember to reuse yours to make a difference to the environment.



TOP TIP!

When you put plastic bottles in recycling banks or in your bin always remove the tops. This enables them to be crushed more easily so they occupy less space.

RECYCLING PLASTIC

There are lots of different kinds of plastics which are used to make different kinds of products.

Save the plastic rubbish that goes into your bucket for a week (remember to wash things out first). Put your rubbish in a pile and have a good look on each item for one of the symbols opposite. Sort all your rubbish according to the type of plastic it is made of.

Think about why different plastics need to be used for different types of product.

WHY CAN MICROWAVE MEALS NOT BE PACKAGED IN THE SAME PLASTIC AS A CARRIER BAG?

WHY IS POLYSTYRENE USED FOR HAMBURGER BOXES AND CUPS?



PET

Polyethylene terephthalate

Fizzy drink bottles and oven-ready meal trays.



HDPE

High-density polyethylene

Bottles for milk and washing-up liquids



PVC

Polyvinyl chloride

Food trays, cling film, bottles for squash, mineral water and shampoo.



LDPE

Low density polyethylene

Carrier bags and bin liners.



PP

Polypropylene

Margarine tubs, microwaveable meal trays.



PS

Polystyrene

Yoghurt pots, foam meat or fish trays, hamburger boxes and egg cartons, vending cups, plastic cutlery, protective packaging for electronic goods and toys.



OTHER

Any other plastics that do not fall into any of the above categories. - An example is melamine, which is often used in plastic plates and cups.

