

## The 3 R's of effective waste management

### Reduce

As a consumer you can make purchasing decisions which reduce waste generation, examples include:

- Buying fruit and vegetables that are not packaged
- Printing on both sides of paper
- Buying items in bulk to limit packaging
- Purchase products that are built to last

### Reuse

Purchasing products which are designed to last and can be reused and refurbished limit waste generation, examples include:

- Refilling containers for laundry products
- Reusing jars as storage containers
- Using a 'Bag for Life' as opposed to plastic carrier bags
- Purchasing second-hand goods

### Recycle

When the time comes to dispose of items it is important to ensure they are recycled effectively, examples include:

- Donating items such as clothes, shoes and books to charity shops
- Delivering unused paint to community paint recycling schemes
- Utilising your councils' kerbside recycling services
- Taking electrical goods to your local civic amenity site

If you would like to know more about recycling services that are available in your local area simply click this link:

<http://mycouncil.direct.gov.uk/index.html>

## Recycling symbols

There are a wide variety of different recycling symbols:

### Symbol

### Description



This symbol denotes a product that is made from aluminium and can be recycled.






This symbol reminds consumers not to litter and to find the nearest suitable waste container.









This symbol advises consumers that the glass bottle they have purchased can and should be placed in a bottle bank.



The green dot symbol is used in Europe to indicate that the manufacturer of the product has contributed financially to its eventual recovery. It does not mean that the product is recyclable.

Symbol	Description	Common Forms	Recycled Products
	Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)	Fizzy drink bottles, water bottles, cooking oil bottles.	Bottles, clothing such as fleeces, carpet.
	High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)	Milk Bottles, Detergent bottles, shampoo and toiletry bottles.	Detergent bottles, Recycling and composting bins, pipes.
	Unplasticised Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC—U)	Blister packs, bottles, windows, fencing, guttering, binders, stationery, water bottles, sandwich boxes.	Binders, flooring, cables.

	Plasticised Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC—P)	Medical Products such as blood bags, cable sheathing.	Binders, flooring, cables.
	Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)	Plastic carrier bags, rubbish sacks.	Plastic carrier bags, rubbish sacks.
	Polypropylene (PP)	Food containers, food film, bottle lids, crisp packets.	Pallets, trays, brooms, posts, upholstery.
	Polystyrene (PS)	CD & DVD cases.	CD & DVD cases, replacement to hardwood flooring.
	Expanded Polystyrene (PS-E)	Yoghurt pots, fast food packaging.	CD & DVD cases, replacement to hardwood flooring, insulation panels.
	All Other Resins	This relates to plastic types not already stated and composites of different resin types	



The “crossed out wheellie bin” symbol denotes that an item of WEEE cannot be disposed of in the general waste stream due to its hazardous components. Hazardous materials are denoted by certain specific symbols:



### **National Waste Strategy**

For further information regarding the waste strategies in the UK please click on the links below:

England:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/strategy/strategy07/documents/waste07-strategy.pdf>

Wales:

<http://wales.gov.uk/about/programmeforgovernment/strategy/publications/environmentcountryside/2096132/?lang=en>

Scotland:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/314168/0099749.pdf>

Northern Ireland

[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/towards\\_resource\\_management.pdf](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/towards_resource_management.pdf)