

Thou shalt not contaminate!

How to make recycling count

Not sure what to do with your unwanted plastic?

As a result of confusion over recycling household waste, we have recently done some research and thought it would be useful to share some key findings to help clarify how we can make the most of our doorstep collection and help fight the 'war on plastic'.

We should not demonise this flexible, durable and protective material, but we need to be responsible for its reuse and disposal. The biggest problem is contamination – either due to being put in the wrong box or still being covered in residual food waste.

Much more plastic can be recycled effectively if we **follow these simple steps:**

- *Only put plastic, glass, cans, tins and completely empty aerosols in the **black box**.*
- *Empty and lightly rinse anything with food or drink residue.*
- *Put lids and caps back on all drink containers.*
- *Remove any film lids and absorbent pads from trays and put these in the general rubbish.*
- *Triggers can be left on cleaning product bottles but soap bottle pumps need to be removed and disposed of in the rubbish bin.*
- *Do not completely crush cans as it prevents them being sorted properly.*
- **Drink cartons** (such as Tetrapaks) should be put in the **blue box** (paper) with their **lids on**.
- *Any food waste should be wiped off cardboard and anything too soaked in grease should be composted or put in the general rubbish. If the bottom of your takeaway pizza box looks greasy but the top is clean, recycle the top half and dispose of the bottom.*
- *Do not put soft plastics such as bags, film lids or any "scrunchable" plastic in the doorstep collection boxes as they get caught in the sorting belts.*

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