

Frequently Asked Questions – Plastics



Which plastics can be recycled?



In your **recycling bin** you can recycle plastic **bottles, tubs and trays**.

At any **Suffolk Recycling Centre** you can also recycle **hard plastics**

Search on our [A – Z of Recycling webpage](#) or look at our [Plastics Know Your Place campaign](#) for more information on plastic recycling.

How do I recycle these tricky plastic items?

Plastic plant pots: These can be recycled in the hard-plastic container at any Suffolk Recycling Centre but cannot be put in your kerbside recycling bin.

Plastic coat hangers: These cannot go in your kerbside recycling bin. They can be recycled in the hard-plastic container at any Suffolk Recycling Centre.



What do the numbers mean on plastic packaging and which types can be recycled?



The numbers on plastic packaging are not recycling symbols. They are called 'resin identification codes' and are put on by manufacturers to identify which type of plastic an item is made of. In Suffolk, we tend to avoid looking at these codes as they can be confusing and not every plastic item will have a symbol.

Generally plastic numbers 1 – 5 are more likely to be recyclable either in the recycling bin or at the Recycling Centres in Suffolk, however this is not always the case so please check our [A – Z of Recycling webpage](#) for guidance on specific plastic items before recycling or disposing of them.

Plastic numbers 6 and 7 are less likely to be recyclable.

Can black plastic be put in my recycling bin at home and will it then be recycled?



Black plastic can be included in your recycling bin. Due to the dark colour, black plastic is notoriously difficult for some sorting machines to detect, however our recycling contractor works hard to recover as much of this material as possible.

Can I recycle plastic bottle tops?

Loose bottle tops are too small to survive the sorting process at the recycling facility and won't get recycled unless you wash and squash your empty plastics bottles and then place the top back on - then recycle in your kerbside recycling bin or in the plastic container at any Suffolk Recycling Centre.



Do I have to wash plastics before putting them in the recycling bin?



Recyclable plastics don't have to be completely clean, but we recommend giving them a rinse, especially with items like meat trays. Remember people at the recycling facility sort the recycling from your bin by hand! Labels from the plastic packaging don't need to be removed before recycling.

What happens to plastic packaging after it's been sent for recycling?

Plastic is sorted and processed before being sent all over the world to wherever it is needed to manufacture new plastic goods. To find out how plastics are recycled and what they can be turned into watch this short [Recycle Now video](#)

