

Glass Recycling

Glass recycling is the process of turning waste glass into a useable product. Glass can be recycled an infinite amount of times with no loss in quality.

The Recycling Journey

Stage 1:

You put your glass into the appropriate recycling container, or in bring banks, and these are then collected from your kerbside or local recycling centres/points.

Stage 2:

The glass is then taken to a sorting facility and the glass is sorted into different colours so that green and brown bottles do not contaminate the clear bottles.

Stage 3:

Once separated the glass is taken to a processing plant and is crushed in to fine glass chips called 'cullets' and then washed to remove any impurities.

Stage 5:

The cullets are then sent to a furnace where they are mixed with sand, limestone and soda ash then heated to 1200°C.

Stage 6:

The molten glass is then formed in to new bottles, jars and other glass products. The quality of the cullets designates what the glass can be used for e.g. good quality cullets could be used for clear bottles, where as contaminated cullets would have to be used for coloured glass.

Stage 7:

The new empty bottles are sent to companies who fill them with products and these are then sold on to supermarkets, where you buy them and start the process again.

Did you know?

- Every household in the UK uses on average 331 bottles and jars each year.
- Every bottle that is recycled saves enough energy to power a television for 20 minutes.
- For every tonne of glass that is recycled 1,330 pounds of sand, 433 pounds of soda ash and 433 pounds of limestone are saved.
- Recycling glass reduces air pollution by 14-20% and water pollution by 50%.

