



## Repak Recycling Rangers Fact Sheet

### Why Recycle - Five Good Reasons

1. Recycling conserves our valuable natural resources.
2. Recycling saves energy.
3. Recycling saves clean air and clean water.
4. Recycling saves landfill space.
5. Recycling can save money and create jobs.

### Glass Recycling

Glass accounts for 7.5% of household waste.

Old glass is easily made into new glass jars and bottles or into other glass products like fibreglass insulation. And unlike paper, glass jars and bottles can be recycled over and over again. The glass doesn't wear out.

Recycling 1 glass jar saves enough energy to light a light bulb for nearly 1 hour or run a TV for 15 minutes.

Glass cullet (ie. recycled glass) can be used to make new glass, concrete, fibreglass, ceramic tiles, picture frames and can be used in roadbeds.

Using recycled glass uses 40 percent less energy than making products from all new materials.

In Ireland almost 80% of all glass packaging is recycled.

Preparing your used glass containers for recycling is easy. All you need to do is remove their lids or caps and rinse the containers in water. You don't need to scrub off the labels, since they will burn up when the glass is melted down for recycling

Most recyclers ask you to sort glass containers by colour—clear, green, or amber (golden brown). Once glass has been coloured, the colour cannot be removed. That means a maker of clear glass jars cannot use coloured cullet. Why do some manufacturers package their foods and beverages in green or amber coloured glass containers? The coloured glass protects some sensitive foods and beverages from degrading in light

You cannot recycle all glass products. Light bulbs, ceramics, glass mirrors, windowpanes, and glass Pyrex dishes are not made with the same materials as glass jars and bottles, so they should not be mixed in with glass recyclables. Still, it's the bottles and jars that we throw away every day, not the light bulbs and dishes that make up most of our trash

## **Metal**

### Aluminium

Aluminium is made from Bauxite Ore which is a non-renewable resource

Recycling aluminium saves 95% of the energy used to produce aluminium from raw materials

Over 390 million aluminium beverage cans are sold in Ireland each year, all of which are fully recyclable

You can differentiate between steel and aluminium cans by using a magnet. Aluminium cans are not magnetic; therefore they will not stick to the magnet. Steel cans will stick to the magnet.

Both aluminium cans and foil containers can be recycled

Used aluminium cans are recycled and returned to a store shelf as a new can in as few as 60 days. That means a consumer could purchase basically the same recycled aluminium can from a retailer's shelf nearly every 9 weeks or 6 times a year.

It takes 670 Aluminium cans to make up one bicycle

Every minute of everyday, an average of 105,800 aluminium cans are recycled.

Recycling one aluminium can saves enough energy to run a television for three hours

Every 3 seconds a baby is born. In that time, 140 cans were born.

Aluminium accounts for 1.2% of the household bin

Aluminium never wears out, it can be recycled forever.

### Metal

Using scrap metal in the manufacturing of new metal, results in a 75% saving in energy

Steel can be used indefinitely without suffering the slightest loss of quality, allowing 70-85% of energy saving. Tin cans are used to make keys.

Steel accounts for 1.8% of the household bin

Steel is by the far the most energy efficient metal used in the production of cans. The production of steel for one can used about half the energy needed to make a comparable aluminium can.

Steel is easy to extract from a domestic waste stream as it is magnetic.

Every tonne of steel cans recycle save:

- ❖ 1.5 tonnes of iron ore
- ❖ 0.5 tonnes of coal
- ❖ 40% of the water

required in production.

## **Paper / Cardboard Recycling**

Paper products make up 23% of the household bin.

Making recycled paper instead of new paper saves trees, and uses 54% less energy and 58% less water than making paper from virgin wood pulp

Each ton of paper recycled can save 17 trees, 380 gallons of oil, three cubic yards of landfill space, 4,000 kilowatts of energy and 7,000 gallons of water

Paper products use up at least 35% of the world's annual commercial wood harvest.

One tree can filter up to 60 pounds of pollutants from the air each year.

For an office which contains 1000 people, each person uses approximately 10,000 sheets of paper per year. That is enough paper to stretch nearly 2,000 miles (from here to southern Italy); that is a pile of paper 500 metres high (nearly as high as five times the Dublin Spire);

One piece of office grade paper can be recycled seven times

Did you know that drinks cartons are made into book covers

During World War II when raw materials were scarce, 33% of all paper was recycled. After the war, this number decreased sharply

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## **Plastic Recycling**

Plastic accounts for 12.4% of the household bin.

Plastic is made from crude oil – a valuable and limited non-renewable resource

Recycling plastic saves 2/3 of the energy required when producing plastic from raw materials

Every Plastic bag we throw away stays buried in the ground for up to 500 years before it finally breaks down.

It takes about 27 recycled soft drink bottles to make one fleece jacket.

150 Plastic bottles make up one mat

One tonne of plastics is equivalent to 20,000 two litre drink bottles or 120,000 carrier bags. Plastic consumption is growing about 4 per cent every year in Western Europe.

If you lined up all the polystyrene foam cups made in just 1 day they would circle the earth

It takes 5 PET bottles to make 1 square foot of polyester carpet, an extra large t-shirt or filling for a ski jacket

Many manufacturers who once packaged their goods in glass have changed to alternatives such as plastic for a variety of reasons:

- Lower cost
- Improved Storage (clear glass allows goods such as milk to be adversely affected by sun light losing vitamin value)
- Safety (plastic bottles are less of a hazard if dropped)

## General

A new landfill generally costs more than an old one that has filled up. This is because it typically costs more to comply with new environmental regulations, to buy the land, to construct the landfill and to transport waste because new landfills generally are farther away than older ones.

Only 1 percent of the world's water supply is usable; 97 percent is in the ocean and 2 percent is frozen.

Recycled materials can return to the marketplace in as little as 30 days

Ford motor company indicates that 75% of every vehicle is recyclable.

The below diagram outlines in full what the average composition of a household waste bin

### Composition of Household Waste bin

