

# Plastic recycling - New sites and more types to recycle!

Residents can now recycle more types of plastic and we have extended the number of recycling points from nine to fourteen.

As well as being able to recycle types 1 and 2 you can now recycle types 5 and 6 which are items such as yoghurt pots and margarine tubs.

In addition we have secured some extra funding and are delighted to announce five new sites across the District, see the yellow box on the opposite page.



## Which is which?

- **Type 1**, or polyethylene terephthalate, is commonly used to make fizzy drink bottles, water bottles and salad trays.
- **Type 2**, or high density polyethylene, is mainly used to make milk bottles, bleach, cleaners and most shampoo bottles.
- **Type 5**, or polypropylene, is commonly used to make margarine tubs and microwaveable meal trays.
- **Type 6**, or polystyrene, is mainly used to make yoghurt pots, foam hamburger boxes, plastic egg cartons, plastic cutlery and protective packaging for electronic goods.

Just look for the logos stamped onto your plastics – see the examples above. Bear in mind the logo is sometimes displayed with only numbers or letters.

The council cannot accept plastic with any other combination of letters or numbers for recycling because, at the moment, it is difficult to process, and we do not have a secure end market for recycling the other types of plastic.

Residents should not recycle plastic without a logo, flower pots, cling film, carrier bags, bin liners, bubble wrap, or plastic types 3, 4, or 7.



## Our plastic banks are located at:

- Backwell - Recycling Centre
- Blagdon – Village Club Car Park **NEW**
- Clevedon – Millcross
- Long Ashton – Co-op Car Park **NEW**
- Nailsea - Clevedon Road Car Park
- Pill – Mount Pleasant Shops Car Park **NEW**
- Portishead - Recycling Centre
- Portishead – Waitrose
- Weston-super-Mare - Recycling Centre
- Weston-super-Mare – Tesco
- Weston-super-Mare – Asda **NEW**
- Winscombe - The Woodborough Pub
- Worle – Hill Road Car Park **NEW**
- Yatton – Somerfield

## What happens to plastics once they are collected?

Mixed plastics are collected from bank sites by the firm Recresco, through custom-built suction vehicles, and are taken back to Recresco's depot.

They are tipped into bays where any large visible contaminants are removed.

The plastic is then baled and awaits collection by a plastic reprocessing firm.

At the firm's plant the plastics are split and put through an optical sorting plant, which separates the four polymers into different types.

The polymers are then cleaned and granulated into flakes. Waste from the bales is used to fuel the plant, reducing the carbon footprint.

The products are then sold onto the fibre industry or to plastic bottle manufacturers.



**Tip!** Where possible avoid buying over-packaged products and instead buy refill plastic containers.

**Fact!** The amount of plastic waste generated annually in the UK is estimated to be nearly three million tonnes.

For more information on how to reduce, reuse and recycle your waste visit: [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/waste](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/waste)

