

Plastic recycling in Northumberland

Recycle it Right for Northumberland

For more information visit nland.uk/recycle

Yes please

ANY plastic bottles & their lids (Including milk bottles)

Paper, card & cardboard

Tins, cans & aerosols

Junk mail, newspapers, catalogues

Place clean, dry & loose (not bagged) in your recycling bin.

If in doubt leave it out!

No thanks

Nappies, food and animal waste, bags

Tetra Paks (paper based juice & milk cartons)*

Any plastics which aren't bottles

Glass*

Place bagged in your general waste bin.
*Recycle glass & Tetra Paks at your local HWRC.

Household Waste Recovery Centres. Follow the link or QR code to find out more on how to Recycle it Right.

Please see below for our frequently asked questions about plastic recycling:

What kinds of plastic should I recycle?

- You can put plastic bottles of any colour in your recycling bin.
- We don't recycle plastic pots, tubs, or trays because they are more likely to contaminate other recyclable items such as paper and card, and they are a low-quality plastic.

Do I need to check for numbers on plastic bottles?

- You don't need to check for recycling numbers. If it's plastic, and a bottle, please put it in your bin.
- Milk bottles, soft drink bottles, water, detergent, shampoo, and even trigger bottles can all be recycled.

Do I need to take the tops off plastic bottles?

- No. You can leave tops, caps, and triggers on plastic bottles.
- In the past, they were made from a lower-grade plastic so could not be recycled. Manufacturers have now changed the minimum grade of plastic for the lids so they are more easily recyclable.
- For your information, the safety hazard of flattening bottled and lids flying off under pressure has been resolved with the introduction of a piercer in the sorting plant.

Do I need to rinse my plastic bottles before recycling them?

- Plastic bottles should be empty, and (preferably) clean to avoid the contamination of other recyclables such as paper or card.

Why do other local authorities recycle pots, tubs, and trays, but Northumberland chooses not to?

- Plastic bottles are made of HDPE or PET which is easily recyclable and in high demand for reprocessing in the UK and Europe.
- We don't recycle pots, tubs, and trays because they are made of a low-grade plastic that are often contaminated with food waste.
- In Northumberland, plastics such as this should be placed in your general rubbish bin. This waste is then used as fuel for our Energy from Waste scheme, which generates 9.6MW of electricity to the National Grid every year.