

Take two seconds to check

That's not my recycling bag...

Dear Teachers,

To support the council's ambition to reduce contamination in dry mixed recycling, we have launched a children-focused campaign, called 'That's not my recycling bag'.

Using a format most children will recognise from the popular book series, the campaign highlights the top contaminants found in dry mixed recycling across our borough and encourages children to make sure the adults in their home 'take two seconds to check whether items can or can't be recycled in Hillingdon'.

In this digital toolkit, you'll find a short video for you to show in class and share with parents, featuring the top items children need to keep an eye out for and help make sure they are not going into the recycling – at home or at school.

You'll also find some fun, recycling-themed activities for you to print off as and when you need them, as well as some top tips to help your school recycle as much as possible and a printable certificate for any standout performers in your classes.

We'd really love it if you can accommodate some of this into your lessons during the next term and help with our ambition for educating children and their families and creating a greener future.

If you'd like to arrange a visit to your school from our recycling team to talk about this in more depth, please email [@recycling@hillington.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@hillington.gov.uk).

Find out more about what you can and can't recycle in Hillingdon at www.hillingdon.gov.uk/dry-mixed-recycling.

Kind regards,

Waste and recycling team
Hillingdon Council

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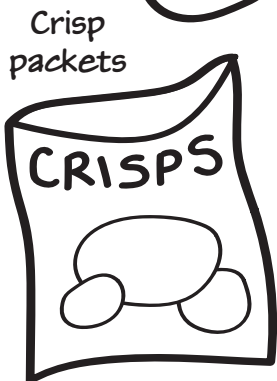
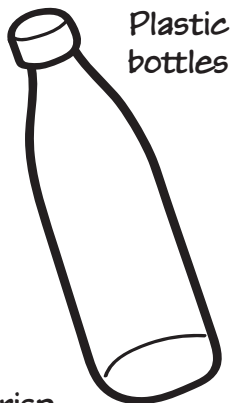
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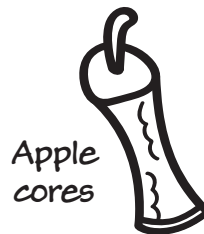
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What goes in which bag or bin?

Draw lines to match the items to the correct bag or bin:



Food and drinks cans



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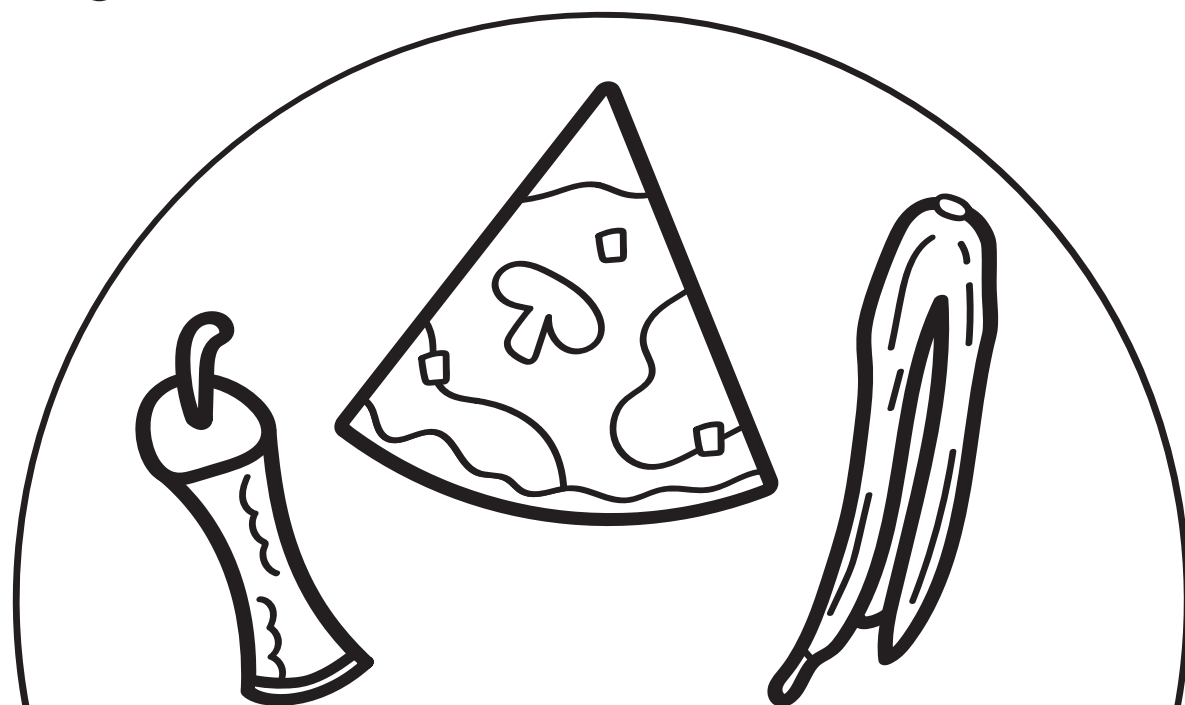


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Colour me in!

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That's not my recycling bag...



It's got food in it.

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How much do you know about recycling?

Try this quiz to find out...

1. Which of the following can you recycle at home in your clear recycling bags?
 - a) Paper and cardboard
 - b) Glass and cans
 - c) Plastic bottles
 - d) All of the above
2. How should you recycle your food waste?
 - a) Put it in your black rubbish bags
 - b) Put it in your clear recycling bags
 - c) Put it in your green food waste bin
 - d) Put it in your garden waste bags
3. Which of these should you do before putting your cans, glass and plastic in your clear recycling bags?
 - a) Rinse out leftover food/drink
 - b) Dry the item
 - c) Take off any labels
 - d) All of the above
4. Which of the following should be put in your rubbish bags? *(Pick more than one)*
 - a) Nappies
 - b) Food waste
 - c) Recycling
 - d) Tissues
5. What percentage of the general waste collected in Hillingdon could have been recycled?
 - a) 0%
 - b) 10%
 - c) 30%
 - d) 50%
6. The average person throws away rubbish every year weighing the same as:
 - a) 3 cats
 - b) 35 cats
 - c) 62 cats
 - d) 89 cats

More questions >

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7. Which of the following can you recycle at home in your food waste bin?
- a) Tea bags and eggshells
 - b) Leftover food
 - c) Mouldy food
 - d) All of the above
8. What should you do with your small electricals (such as a toaster or old computer game) when they break?
- a) Dispose of them in a pink bin in your local Hillingdon library
 - b) Put them out on the street
 - c) Put them in your rubbish bag
 - d) Put them in your recycling bag
9. Can you put crisp packets and sweet wrappers in your clear recycling bags?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
10. Recycling an aluminium can saves enough energy to run a television for how long?
- a) 1 hour
 - b) 3 hours
 - c) 6 hours
 - d) 10 hours

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How much do you know about recycling?

Quiz answers:

1. Which of the following can you recycle at home in your clear recycling bags?
d) All of the above
2. How should you recycle your food waste?
c) Put it in your green food waste bin
3. Which of these should you do before putting your cans, glass and plastic in your clear recycling bags?
d) All of the above
4. Which of the following should be put in your rubbish bags? (pick multiple)
a) Nappies
d) Tissues
5. What percentage of the general waste collected in Hillingdon could have been recycled?
d) 50%
6. The average person throws away rubbish every year weighing the same as:
d) 89 cats
7. Which of the following can you recycle at home in your food waste bin?
d) All of the above
8. What should you do with your small electricals (such as a toaster or old computer game) when they break?
a) Dispose of them in a pink bin in your local Hillingdon library
9. Can you put crisp packets and sweet wrappers in your clear recycling bags?
b) No
10. Recycling an aluminium can saves enough energy to run a television for how long?
b) 3 hours

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Recycling wordsearch

Find these 10 words
in the grid:

- Recycle
- Reuse
- Repair
- Reduce
- Environment
- Plastic
- Waste
- Paper
- Litter
- Energy

F	E	N	V	I	R	O	N	M	E	N	T
Y	D	H	K	Y	E	F	R	L	Z	M	Q
C	S	W	E	A	C	X	R	E	U	S	E
A	L	A	T	J	Y	P	I	U	T	S	H
Z	X	S	G	L	C	B	M	G	L	N	U
I	B	T	Q	P	L	A	S	T	I	C	O
E	U	E	R	K	E	P	V	X	T	H	G
N	W	H	C	I	O	D	T	C	T	N	J
E	S	Q	J	U	P	M	B	Z	E	O	V
R	E	P	A	I	R	Z	E	A	R	K	F
G	M	L	R	E	D	U	C	E	Y	O	W
Y	E	R	N	D	X	A	P	A	P	E	R

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Recycling wordsearch

Solution:

Find these 10 words in the grid. They run vertically (top to bottom) or horizontally (left to right):

- Recycle
- Reuse
- Repair
- Reduce
- Environment
- Plastic
- Waste
- Paper
- Litter
- Energy

F	E	N	V	I	R	O	N	M	E	N	T
Y	D	H	K	Y	E	F	R	L	Z	M	Q
C	S	W	E	A	C	X	R	E	U	S	E
A	L	A	T	J	Y	P	I	U	T	S	H
Z	X	S	G	L	C	B	M	G	L	N	U
I	B	T	Q	P	L	A	S	T	I	C	O
E	U	E	R	K	E	P	V	X	T	H	G
N	W	H	C	I	O	D	T	C	T	N	J
E	S	Q	J	U	P	M	B	Z	E	O	V
R	E	P	A	I	R	Z	E	A	R	K	F
G	M	L	R	E	D	U	C	E	Y	O	W
Y	E	R	N	D	X	A	P	A	P	E	R

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Top tips for recycling in schools

1. **Ensure there are recycling bins where the most recyclable waste is produced.** For example, it could be in classrooms in a primary school, near a printer, in the cafeteria, in the art room. By targeting where you place the recycling bins, you can ensure you capture more material.
2. **Get the students on board.** Remind students what can and cannot be recycled, but also get them involved in the process itself. Ways of doing this could be to have a recycling club, have recycling awards for students going above and beyond, or recycling monitors. If students take responsibility for the scheme, then they are more likely to effectively engage with it and get other students on board.
3. **Ensure consistent messaging.** Make sure that all teachers have the same level of knowledge and can correctly inform students of which bin their item should go in and to spot contaminants (items that are put in the recycling bin but can't be recycled). A staff briefing or including this training as part of staff inset days could be ways to achieve this.
4. **Make sure the different types of bins are correctly labelled.** Ensure that the bins for different waste streams are clearly labelled with different colours, text and images so it is quick and easy to distinguish between them.
5. **Ensure there is an effective collection system in place.** Work with the site manager to ensure that bins are emptied throughout the school and that they are placed within the correct receptacles outside, ready for collection. If you have a recycling club, it could be one of their roles to manage.
6. **Ensure contamination is minimal.** Before the waste gets collected it's important to make sure there are no items in the recycling bins that cannot be recycled. Some ways of ensuring this would be: checks by the recycling club, teachers keeping an eye on classroom bins, or checking the waste as it is emptied into the outside recycling bins.

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7. **Have a food waste collection.** Food waste is the biggest recyclable item found in the general waste bins across the borough. While food waste can not go in your normal recycling bins, a separate food waste or organic waste collection is possible.
8. **Understand what happens to the recycling and food waste when it leaves the schools.** This can differ based on who collects your waste but ask them to provide you with information on what happens to your waste. You can use this information to educate the students and help show the importance of every small action.
9. **Hold a recycling week!** Organise a week of recycling and sustainability themed education, activities and project work. This allows students to fully immerse themselves in a way that they may not have time to do in a normal work week. A few ideas:
 - a) Hold a toy and book swap for children in Nursery to Year 2 to teach them about the importance of sharing and giving their old toys a new life.
 - b) Hold recycling races for each class. Get children to race against each other to see who can put the right item in the right bin the fastest.
 - c) Organise an assembly on recycling to help educate students on how they can recycle and common contaminants.
 - d) Get students to make recyclable art and hold an open day or art show to help highlight the importance of recycling waste.
10. **Understand that we all play our part.** The more schools that implement an effective recycling scheme that engages students in the process, the greener and more sustainable Hillingdon will be.

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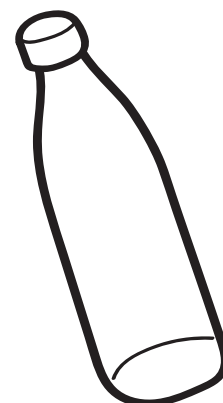
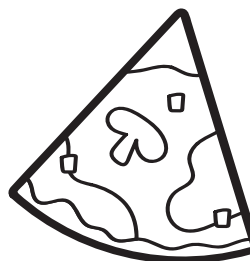
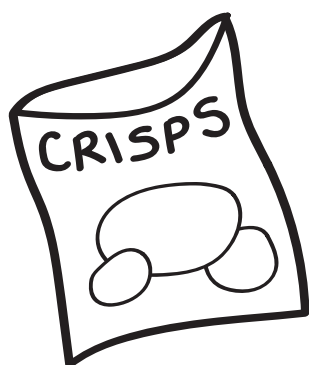
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