

Why we can't take certain materials for recycling & what to do with them

Not all items that are labelled “recyclable” are able to be recycled within Worcestershire. This may be due to the technology used at our Material Reclamation Facility (MRF) in Norton, misleading packaging or misinformation about recycling. The table below clarifies where items believed to be recyclable need to be disposed of.



household plastic
packaging

Plastics

Item	Reason	What to do with it
Black plastic	Optical sorting equipment at MRF cannot recognise the colour	Nothing – please dispose of in black/grey bin
Crisp wrappers & sweet packets	Composite materials that can't be separated	Terracycle recycling points (www.terracycle.org.uk)
Cling film & film lids from pots or trays	Often made from a type of plastic that cannot be recycled and causes issues with sorting process	Nothing – please dispose of in black/grey bin
Laminated pouches (i.e. cat/dog food)	Composite materials that can't be separated	Terracycle recycling points (www.terracycle.org.uk)
Medicine blister packs	Composite materials that can't be separated	Nothing – please dispose of in black/grey bin
Plastic toys	Often made of a type of plastic that cannot be recycled and causes issues with sorting process	Take to Household Recycling Centre, charity shop or offer for reuse online
Toothpaste tubes	Cannot clean out tubes sufficiently	Nothing – please dispose of in black/grey bin. Cardboard outers can be recycled
Expanded polystyrene	No viable recycling method	Nothing – please dispose of in black/grey bin
Plastic bottles containing chemicals	Potentially dangerous	Check manufacturer's instructions
Compostable bags/liners	Not designed to be recycled	Home composting
Carrier bags/plastic wrapping from bread etc	Difficult for hand sorting staff to identify contents & binds up recycling process	Use local supermarket collection points
Bubble wrap	Difficult to recycle	Offer for reuse or put in black/grey bin



household metal packaging

Metal cans & aerosols

Item	Reason	What to do with it
Metal items (i.e. pans, cutlery & pipes)	Sorting equipment not set up to deal with these materials	Take to Household Recycling Centre, charity shop or offer for reuse online
Electrical items (i.e. kettles, irons)	Must be dealt with separately due to various materials	Take to Household Recycling Centre, charity shop or offer for reuse if still working. Electrical shops offer takeback scheme.
Batteries	Must be dealt with separately due to hazardous materials	Take to Household Recycling Centre or shops for recycling. Do not put in your black or green bin
Coffee pods	Composite materials & can't be separated	Terracycle recycling points (www.terracycle.org.uk) There are also recycling points in part of Wychavon (www.wychavon.gov.uk/recycling)
Laminated pouches (i.e. cat/dog food)	Composite materials & can't be separated	Terracycle recycling points (www.terracycle.org.uk)
Crisp packets & sweet wrappers	Composite materials & can't be separated	Terracycle recycling points (www.terracycle.org.uk)



mixed glass bottles & jars

Glass bottles & jars

Item	Reason	What to do with it
Glass cookware	Need a different temperature to melt glass down	Take to reuse container at the Household Recycling Centre, charity shop or offer for reuse online. If broken please put in black/grey bin, but wrapped in newspaper or dispose of in waste to landfill skip at the Household Recycling Centre
Drinking glasses		
Glass vases		
Ceramics		
Mirrors		
Window glass		
Light bulbs & fluorescent tubes	Contain metal and need different temperature to melt glass. May also contain hazardous materials	Take to Household Recycling Centre for recycling
Nail varnish bottles	Difficult to remove contents	Nothing – please dispose of in black/grey bin



mixed paper & card

Mixed paper & card

Items	Reason	What to do with it
Shiny or glittery paper & cards	The glitter & foil can cause issues with the recycling process – to check if the paper is recyclable or not do the “scrunch test”. If the paper springs back when you scrunch it, it cannot be recycled	Avoid buying these types of products. Otherwise please dispose of in black/grey bin. Backs of cards with glitter on can be ripped off & recycled or used as note paper
Tissues & kitchen roll	Generally contain bodily fluids or food. Tissue paper is at the end of its life and fibres are too short to knit back together to make paper. Also, they tend to disintegrate prior to the recycling process	Nothing– please dispose of in black/grey bin Kitchen roll that has not been contaminated with meat/diary i.e. used to wipe up water, can be put into a compost bin
Wet wipes	Not designed to be recycled	Nothing – please dispose of in black/grey bin. Do not flush down the toilet. Try using reusable fabric wipes
Sanitary products & nappies	Not designed to be recycled as have many layers of plastics/paper	Nothing– please dispose of in black/grey bin. Consider alternatives such as Mooncups, Reusable Menstrual Products or reusable nappies
Sticky notes/labels	The sticky stuff prevents the paper from being recycled as it binds the fibres	Nothing– please dispose of in black/grey bin
Shredded paper	Messy and fibres are cut short so cannot knit back together to make paper.	Put any shredded paper into an envelope or cardboard box. Use as pet bedding or put into compost bin to add “browns”



cartons

Cartons

Items	Reason	What to do with it
Laminated plastic food/drink pouches (baby food, cat/dog food)	Composite materials that can't be separated	Terracycle recycling points (www.terracycle.org.uk)