

Recycle Week

What is Recycle Week?

Recycle Week is an annual event, usually in June. It is a time to remind people of all the things that can be recycled. The aim is to prompt people to recycle household items that often get forgotten about and are thrown away. These include containers like shampoo and conditioner bottles, bleach bottles, tissue boxes and deodorant cans.



What is recycling?

Recycling is when objects made from glass, steel, paper, cardboard, certain plastics and even waste food, are taken to a recycling plant and turned into other things. They are used again, recycled into something else and not just thrown away into a landfill.



Why is it important to recycle?

It is important to recycle for these reasons:

1 Recycling saves resources

When we recycle, used materials are made into new products, making it less necessary to use natural resources. Natural resources come straight from the earth, like coal and wood, so if we can recycle products already made, we reduce the need to use fresh, raw materials.

2 Recycling saves energy

Using recycled materials when making new products uses a lot less energy than that needed for making new products from raw materials – even when you think of all the extra costs, like transport.

3 Recycling helps to protect the environment

Recycling reduces the need for mining materials from the ground. Changing these raw materials from one thing into another causes a large amount of air and water pollution.

4 Recycling reduces landfill

Landfill sites are huge areas where rubbish that isn't recycled is dumped. They need a lot of space. The rubbish takes years to rot and while it is doing that, these sites give off methane, a powerful and dangerous greenhouse gas.



Did you know?

- Both metal and glass can be recycled again and again without losing any of the quality.
- If we recycle all the steel packaging we use in a year, it would save enough energy to make over 50,000 return train journeys between London and Edinburgh!
- Recycling one drinks can could save enough energy to power a TV for four hours.

Other recycled materials

Clothing and fabrics can be recycled: bedding, old underwear, damaged clothing and faded curtains can be recycled and made in to new items, such as padding for chairs and car seats, cleaning cloths and blankets.

- Check to see if your council collects clothes and fabrics to be recycled.
- Some charities collect clothing and fabrics for recycling, check with your local store or on the bags that come through the door.
- Clothing banks are often in supermarkets and local car parks - check to see if they take items for recycling.

How can we recycle?

Whenever we use a plastic or glass container, we need to wash it out and put it in a separate bag from our other rubbish. Then put the recycling items in to your recycling bin (they can be blue, green or other colours depending on where you live) or take it to a recycling collection point, and that's it! We can all do our bit to help the planet and save the environment for generations to come.



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Questions About Recycle Week

1. In your own words, explain what Recycle Week is.

2. Apart from shampoo bottles, name two more objects people often forget to recycle.

3. What does the phrase '**natural resources come straight from the earth**' mean?

4. Explain your understanding of why recycling reduces landfill.

5. What do you think it would be like living near a landfill? Why?

6. Name one of the ways you can recycle clothing or fabrics.

7. What is special about recycling glass and steel?

8. What colour bins do people put their recycling in at home?

9. Why should people recycle?

10. Write a set of instructions to tell people how they can recycle one item.

Questions About Recycle Week

Answers

1. In your own words, explain what Recycle Week is.

Own explanation

2. Apart from shampoo bottles, name two more objects people often forget to recycle.

Some objects people forget to recycle are: conditioner bottles, bleach bottles, tissue boxes and deodorant cans.

3. What does the phrase 'natural resources come straight from the earth' mean?

The phrase, 'natural resources come straight from the earth' means anything natural from the ground that be used. An example would be coal or wood.

4. Explain your understanding of why recycling reduces landfill.

Recycling reduces landfill because less things would be left in a landfill if they are being recycled and reused.

5. What do you think it would be like living near a landfill? Why?

Living near a landfill would be smelly because of the methane gas, and dirty because of all the rubbish left there.

6. Name one of the ways you can recycle clothing or fabrics.

Take them to a charity shop/ leave in a bag on the doorstep/ take them to a supermarket recycling point.

7. What is special about recycling glass and steel?

Glass and steel are special because they don't lose their quality when they're recycled.

8. What colour bins do people put their recycling in at home?

Recycling bins can be blue, green or other colours depending on where you live.

9. Why should people recycle?

Recycling is important because it saves energy, the environment, resources and reduces landfill.

10. Write a set of instructions to tell people how they can recycle one item.

- a. **Decide if it can be recycled.**
- b. **Wash the container out.**
- c. **Put it in a recycling bag.**
- d. **Take it to a recycling point or put it in the blue wheelie bin.**