

1 Rethink rubbish

reduce reuse recycle



What can you do?

Reducing, reusing and recycling rubbish can dramatically reduce the amount of waste we throw away to landfill. If we rethink our habits, when out shopping and at home, we can cut down on what we throw away and save cash as well. It only takes a few small changes to make a positive difference.

Reduce.....the amount of rubbish we each produce depends on what we buy and use. By thinking about what you buy you can cut the amount of rubbish that ends up in your bin. The easiest way to reduce our rubbish is not to buy it in the first place.

What can you do?

- ✓ take a reusable bag shopping with you.
- ✓ encourage your family to avoid buying disposable products such as razors, nappies, tissues and plastic cups.
- ✓ avoid buying over-packaged goods.
- ✓ buy fruit and vegetables loose or use a paper bag which can be reused or recycled.
- ✓ buy presents that don't need to be wrapped, like concert or cinema tickets or a meal out.

Reuse.....think twice before putting things in the bin. Can the item be reused.

For example, furniture and toys can be refurbished or given a lick of paint, and vegetable peelings can be composted.

What can you do?

- ✓ use sandwich boxes for your packed lunch, instead of plastic bags
- ✓ use refillable drinks bottles
- ✓ reuse envelopes with sticky labels for the new address
- ✓ pass on unwanted comics, books, clothes, toys, games etc to friends or charity shops.
- ✓ encourage your family to use a home composter to turn your vegetable and fruit peelings and garden waste into compost to use on your own garden.

Recycle

Around half of the rubbish that ends up in the bin can be recycled.

When you have something to throw away, stop and ask yourself: Can this be recycled?

Why throw it all away?

The UK produces more than 434 million tonnes of waste every year. This would fill the Albert Hall in London in less than two hours.

Most of the things we use can be recycled into something new and the new rubbish and recycling service will make it so much easier for you to do this.



Did you know?

- ✓ in just seven days, your paper could come back as another newspaper
- ✓ in just six weeks your metal can could be recycled and used as part of a fridge, a car, a plane... or just another metal can
- ✓ your glass bottles could be recycled into house insulation, and
- ✓ plastic bottles could be made into a cosy fleece jacket

**DON'T WASTE
UR FUTURE**



Did you know?

Each time your recyclable materials are collected an exciting journey begins.

When you recycle an ordinary drinks can it could end up as part of a car, a plane, a train, a fridge or simply another can of drink! And it's not just cans, all of the glass, paper, cardboard and

plastic we collect can be turned into a range of exciting new things. The possibilities really are endless!



What can you do?

You can either use the kerbside collection scheme, take your recycling to the local recycling banks (bring banks), or take it to the Community Recycling Centre (local tip). A wide selection of material can also be recycled at Charlton Lane Community Centre.

For your nearest site please go to the council website - www.spelthorne.gov.uk or call the customer helpline on 01784 451499

This is one of a number of fact sheets to give you more information about rubbish and recycling.

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