

Can It, Can't It? - Activity Card

How much do you know about plastic recycling? -

All plastics can be recycled but not always through your household recycling bin. This is because different areas have different processing plants and infrastructure.

It can therefore, be confusing if you live, work or go to school in different areas. But there are some alternatives and some rules you could follow to make it simpler -

Always wash / clean any recycling especially plastics, this will stop it from being rejected and put into landfill

Black plastics cannot go into your recycling, as the machinery cannot see it on the black conveyor belts

Take soft plastics such as carrier bags and food wrappers to your local supermarket to be recycled, as these can damage and clog the recycling machinery

Polystyrene, PVC and other plastics from the 7(other) type cannot be recycled in your home recycling bin

The Challenge -

Plastic waste is a problem - over the last 10yrs we have produced more than we did in the last 100years!

Have you every heard of a plastic island? The biggest of these is called the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. It is 1.6million kilometers wide, weighs approximately 80,000 tons, is roughly 3 times the size of France and is located in the North Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and California!

Do you think you could work out whether these items should be put into your bin or taken somewhere else for recycling and why? Or is there something else you could do instead?

Extension Home Learning - Home Waste & Recycling Audit



Can It, Can't It? - Activity Card



Plastic Straw

Yes

Why? _____

No

What else could you do? _____



Toothbrush

Yes

Why? _____

No

What else could you do? _____



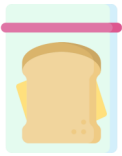
Plastic Toys

Yes

Why? _____

No

What else could you do? _____



Clingfilm

Yes

Why? _____

No

What else could you do? _____



Toothpaste

Yes

Why? _____

No

What else could you do? _____



Plastic Cup

Yes

Why? _____

No

What else could you do? _____

Can It, Can't It? - Activity Card Answers



- Yes
 No

Plastic Straw

Why? This is just one type of plastic which can be easily cleaned

What else could you do? Refuse to use a straw, or take your own reusable one



- Yes
 No

Toothbrush

Why? Because it is made out of different types of plastic that cannot be easily separated these cannot go into your home recycling but maybe accepted at specialist recycling collection points

What else could you do? Swap it for a sustainable alternative like a bamboo toothbrush

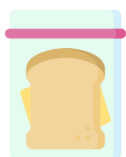


- Yes
 No

Plastic Toys

Why? Toys are often made using many different materials and difficult to recycle plastics

What else could you do? If they are in good condition they should be donated



- Yes
 No

Clingfilm

Why? Soft plastics jam up the machines at the recycling center

What else could you do? This type of plastic waste can be taken to your local supermarket for recycling or you could use a sustainable alternative like a beeswax wrap



- Yes
 No

Toothpaste

Why? These types of tubes are considered contaminated waste as they are not clean. To place them in your recycling you would need to cut them open and wash them out.

What else could you do? Take them to a specialist recycling collection point



- Yes
 No

Plastic Cup

Why? This is just one type of plastic which can be easily cleaned

What else could you do? Refuse to use single use plastics by carrying reusable bottles/cups