

Waste and Recycling

SCHOOL INFORMATION



Tips for successful recycling in school



What can be recycled?

Check with the site manager/district council which items can be collected for recycling in school. Most schools can collect paper and card e.g. white paper, lined paper and newspaper. Many schools can collect a wider range of paper e.g. coloured paper, sugar paper and display borders.

Paper based items to avoid are laminated paper, paper with a lot of glue, paint or cellotape on, jiffy bags and tissue paper.

Some schools may be able to recycle plastic bottles, yoghurt pots and metal tins and cans.

Organic waste

Composting organic waste in school is an effective way of recycling.

Organic waste makes excellent compost and the process can easily be achieved in most schools.

Fruit and vegetable peelings along with apple cores, banana skins, tea bags and eggshells can all be composted.

To provide more bulk to your compost bin, you can regularly add shredded paper from the school office and paper towels. Both of these items compost well and help to soak up excess moisture in your compost bin.

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Setting up a recycling scheme/system

- Recycling in school works best when the whole school is involved and a consistent scheme is put in place. In secondary schools success is also achieved when whole departments work together.
- Decide where recycle bins are to be placed e.g. classroom, corridor, staff room, hall or common room. Ensure the area is accessible for depositing and collecting the recyclable waste.
- Ensure there are recycling bins in areas where a lot of recyclable waste is produced e.g. near the photocopier, resource room, art room or ICT suite.
- Make sure there is a clear distinction between the general waste bins and the recycling bins. Ideally, bins should be different colours or sizes. Labels should be clear with pictorial examples. A checklist on the bin is also a good idea.
- Remind pupils/students during assemblies or briefings of what can and cannot be included in the recycle bin.

Managing the system

- Ensure there is an effective collection system in place. This must be arranged and managed in conjunction with the site manager.
- Recycle bins should be checked before being emptied. Common contaminants in the bins are plastic wrappers, paper towels, tissues, milk or fruit cartons and food waste. These items should be removed prior to emptying into the outdoor recycling bins.
- A rota for collection by pupils/students is an ideal way to check for contaminants, if this is not possible, check with the site manager and cleaning staff to see if they can do this.

Recycling organic waste

- Compost caddies or other plastic containers (preferably with a lid) can be used to collect the waste, which should then be emptied into the compost bin on a daily basis.
- Ensure a caddy is placed in the staff room to collect tea bags and coffee grinds, these can mount up quickly and are great to add to compost bins.
- Compost caddies should be included in the school hall or common room at lunchtime wherever possible.
- Access to a caddy after break times is very useful in primary schools, particularly in KS1 classes after eating fruit snacks.
- Check that a caddy or bin is available in the kitchen area. Organic waste left over from food preparation can then be collected for composting. It is important to note that no general or cooked food waste should be allowed in the bin.

Further suggestions

A 'recycling week' can provide a great opportunity for themed project work in school. Pupils can then explore the subject and produce a range of creative work for displays, assemblies, presentations, community projects or open days.

Investigate the possibility of celebrating the 'National Recycle Week' in school by launching a collection of other materials like clothing, mobile phones or ink cartridges. You may even be able to raise some funds for charity.