

Let's get recycling sorted.



Clean Empty Dry

What's the problem?

A recent analysis of green and blue bins across West Lothian revealed that some residents are contaminating their bins with the wrong items - this can cause problems with the recycling process.

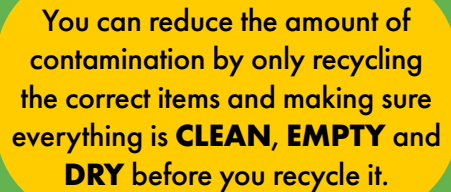
You should only recycle the following items in your recycling bins:

- Plastics, cartons, tins and cans go in your **green bin**.
- Paper and cardboard goes in your **blue bin**.

What is contamination?

Contamination is any item present in the bin which shouldn't be there, for example, nappies in the green bin.

It is also when items are covered in food or liquid, for example, half full juice bottles, yoghurt pots which haven't been rinsed, or dirty tins.



You can reduce the amount of contamination by only recycling the correct items and making sure everything is **CLEAN, EMPTY** and **DRY** before you recycle it.

Why is it an issue?

There is no way of cleaning items at our recycling facility therefore if material arrives which is too contaminated it will be sent to landfill or energy from waste.

It costs the Council more money to dispose of items in landfill than it does to recycle them. This is why we ask that all items are **CLEAN, EMPTY** and **DRY** before they are recycled.

Reducing contamination

If too many contaminated items end up in a recycling vehicle the whole lorry load may have to be sent to landfill or energy from waste - this is a much more expensive way to dispose of this material compared to recycling it.



By recycling correctly we can reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill. This will also save money which can be spent on other essential Council services - it's a win win!

High quality recycling can be used to make new products with less energy and fewer virgin materials. Cleaner recycling means less waste, less landfill and more value.



Green Bin

Your green bin is only for the following
CLEAN, EMPTY and **DRY** items:



Plastic bottles



Tins and drink cans



Cartons



Plastic pots



Plastic tubs and trays



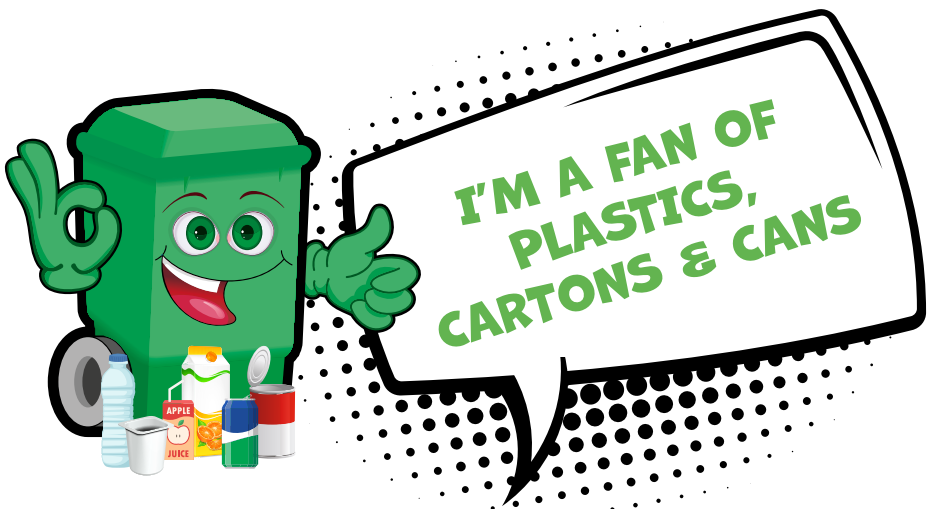
Empty plastic bags



Aerosols and tin foil



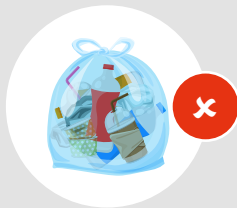
 West Lothian
Council



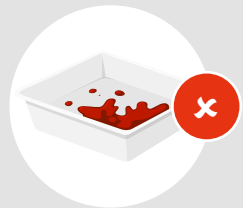
Please DO NOT place any of the following items in your green bin:



Paper or cardboard



Bagged recycling



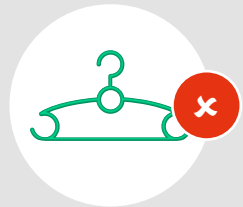
Food contaminated packaging



Wrappers and crisp packets



Nappies



Coat hangers

Blue Bin

Your blue bin is only for the following
CLEAN, EMPTY and **DRY** items:



Newspapers



Magazines and catalogues



Unwanted mail and envelopes (including with windows)



Office and shredded paper



Large and small cardboard boxes



Corrugated cardboard boxes



Kitchen and toilet roll tubes





Please DO NOT place any of the following items in your blue bin:



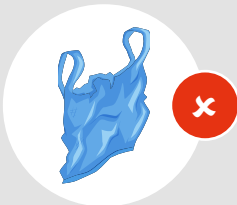
Plastic bottles



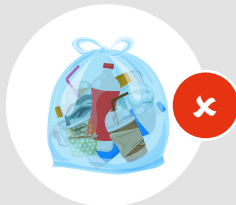
Plastic pots, tubs or trays



Tins or cans



Plastic bags



Bagged recycling



Food contaminated packaging

It is important to keep your bin area tidy.

Please make sure your rubbish is placed inside the bins. Rubbish dumped in bin areas is illegal fly tipping, can attract vermin and be a hazard for other residents. It also causes an obstruction meaning collection crews cannot access the area and your bins may not be emptied.

Frequently asked questions

Why can't I put my recycling in a plastic bag?

If you put recycling in a plastic bag it cannot be separated at our recycling facility and will be sent to landfill or energy from waste, so please place items loose in your bin. You can however recycle clean and empty carrier bags, bread bags, pre-packed vegetable bags, cereal and pasta bags in your green bin providing they are empty and clean.

Why can't the material be separated and cleaned at the recycling facility?

Material is separated at the recycling facility by hand sorting when it arrives therefore some contamination can be removed. However there is no way of cleaning the material which is contaminated by food or liquid, mainly because the damage has already been done when the food/liquid has been spread over the material in the bin lorry. If each household rinses their containers before they are collected this will reduce the likelihood of contamination.

How do I get rid of bulky items?

You can take bulky items to any one of our five Community Recycling Centres free of charge. If you would like us to collect any bulky items from your property you can complete an online form ([westlothian.gov.uk/bulky-uplift](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/bulky-uplift)) or call **01506 280000** - there is a charge for this service.