

PLAN-IT ECO

Promoting Environmental, Sustainable and Cultural Respect and Understanding

WHATS IN OUR RUBBISH?

Every year each person in the UK throws away nearly ½ tonnes of waste.

REMEMBER

The UK is fast running out of landfill sites. A number of reports state that we only have 12 years left of landfill sites. Many towns and cities have already run out.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

(Recycling does not reach its full potential unless it comes behind Reduce and Reuse.)

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

REDUCE

- Take a reusable bag with you when you go shopping
- Encourage your family and friends to avoid buying disposable products such as razors, nappies, plastic cups, and polystyrene items.
- 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 such as a concert or cinema tickets or a meal out.

REUSE

- Use sandwich boxes for packed lunch instead of plastic bags or cardboard and plastic packaged sandwiches.
- Use refillable drinks bottles.
- Reuse envelopes with sticky labels for new addresses.
- Pass on unwanted comics, books, clothes, toys games etc...to friends, family or charity shops.

Our rubbish can be split as follows:

- 37%** Food and other waste such as: vegetables peelings, tea leaves and coffee bean waste, dust and broken crockery.
- 33%** Paper e.g. old newspapers, comics, magazines, cardboard packages and cartons, mail shot letters.
- 11%** Plastic e.g. supermarket carrier bags, plastic wrappers, plastic bottles.
- 09%** Glass e.g. drinks bottles, food jars, perfume bottles.
- 08%** Metal e.g. fizzy drinks cans, food cans, pet food cans, hairspray and deodorant cans.
- 06%** Textiles e.g. old clothes, dusters and cleaning clothes.

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HOW LONG UNTIL IT'S GONE?

Estimated decomposition rates of common debris items.

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| WOOL SOCKS | 5 YEARS |
| TIN CANS | 150 YEARS |
| 6 PACK PLASTIC CAN HOLDER | 400 YEARS |
| PLASTIC BOTTLES | 450 YEARS |
| DISPOSABLE NAPPIES | 450 YEARS |
| ALUMINIUM CANS | 200 YEARS |
| FISHING LINE | 600 YEARS |
| PLASTIC BAGS | 10 to 20 YEARS |
| NEWSPAPERS | 6 MONTHS |
| PLYWOOD | 1 to 3 YEARS |
| WAXED CARTON | 6 MONTHS |
| CARDBOARD BOX | 1 YEAR |

CONSUMPTION

20% of the world's people in the highest-income countries account for 86% of total private consumption – the poorest 20% a minuscule 1.3%

The richest 5th.

Consume 45% of all meat and fish. The poorest 5th Consume 5%

The richest 5th

Consume 58% of total energy. The poorest 5th consume 4%

The richest 5th

Have 74% of all telephone lines. The poorest 5th 1.5%

The richest 5th

Consume 84% of all paper. The poorest 5th 1.1%

The richest 5th

Own 87% of the world's vehicle fleet. The poorest 5th 1%

Source: Global Issues