

What happens to my recycling?

Aluminium cans	melted in furnaces and re-moulded into new cans for food and drink
Food and garden waste	turned into compost
Glass bottles and jars	melted down in furnaces and re-moulded into new glass bottles and jars
Paper and cardboard	pulped down, then dried and rolled out to create more paper, cardboard, newspaper, tissue paper, toilet rolls and egg boxes
Plastic bottles	flaked and re-moulded into new bottles, traffic cones, wheelie bins and fleece material for hats, scarves, etc
Plastic containers	flaked and re-moulded into new plastic containers e.g. yoghurt pots, and can also turned into a solid board as an industry replacement for chipboard
Steel cans	melted in furnaces and re-moulded into new cans for food and drink and parts for cars
Tetrapak cartons	turned into plasterboard liner

Search on-line for videos of all of these recycling processes to find out more about what happens after the recycling materials leaves our facility.

Tours of the Materials Recycling Facility

Tours of the Recycling Factory are available to members of the public, school classes and community groups. All tours need to be booked in advance. Tours include a short presentation, a video of the machinery in action and then out into the factory to view the machinery and staff at work from the safety of a raised viewing gallery. Children's tours also include activities and crafts.

To find out more and make your booking:

Visit our webpage www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/recycling-tours
Email Waste Education wasteeducation@milton-keynes.gov.uk
Telephone 01908 252312



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Milton Keynes Materials Recycling Facility

Find out what happens to your recycling



www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/recycling

 **recycle** for Milton Keynes



1 Weighbridge

The weighbridge is a pair of weighing scales set into the road. Lorries are weighed when they enter the MRF and again when they leave. By weighing the lorry full and empty we can calculate how many tonnes of recycling were in the lorry.



2 Tipping Hall

The lorries unload their recycling onto the tipping hall floor. A digger truck loads the recycling into the bag-splitting machine to open the sacks. The recycling falls from the bottom of the bag-splitter onto a conveyor belt, which carries it into the factory for sorting.



3 Glass Bays

Glass bottles and jars collected from households and recycling banks are tipped in the yard. A digger truck pushes the broken glass into concrete storage bays. When there is enough it's loaded onto a truck and taken to the glass factory for recycling.



4 MRF Machines and Sorting Cabins

The recycling is sorted using hi-tech machines and people in picking cabins.

Pre-sort cabin
Large items which can't be recycled need to be removed before they cause problems or block up machines.

Ballistic Separators
These machines sieve the recycling to separate cans and plastics from paper and cardboard.



The recycling is shaken by a set of moving metal slits called

screens; round heavy bottles and cans roll backwards off the screens, while flat light paper, card and plastic bags travel forward over the top of the screens. The small pieces like shredded paper, bottle tops and ring pulls fall through holes in the screens onto a conveyor belt underneath.

Paper Cabin

In the paper cabin staff sort paper and cardboard. Cardboard and rubbish are removed from the paper and put down chutes. Plastic bags and pink sacks are removed by a large vacuum tube which sucks up the bags as they pass on the conveyor belt.



Magnets

Cans and plastic bottles travel on a conveyor belt passing under three large magnets. Cans and lids made of steel are attracted by the magnets, which pick them up and drop them onto a small conveyer belt and into a storage bunker.



Eddy Current Separator

Aluminium cans and plastic bottles pass through the eddy-current separator. This machine repels aluminium cans, foil and foil lined juice cartons onto a small conveyer belt and into the aluminium storage bunker.

Plastic auto-sorts

Computers are used to scan plastic bottles and packaging passing by on the conveyor belts. When computers identify objects made of plastic they use powerful air jets to blow it onto a smaller conveyor belt and into a plastic storage bunker.



Plastics Cabin

In the cabin operatives pick out coloured plastic bottles and check that the machines have sorted items correctly.

Bunkers

Under the paper cabin are twelve cages, called bunkers, which store the sorted recycling. When the bunkers are full the contents are emptied and sent to the baling machines.



Baling Machines

Two powerful baling machines squash the recycling into large cubes and tie it with wire straps. The bales are picked up by fork-lift trucks and stacked in the yard.

Rubbish Compactors

Any items left on the conveyor belt travel to the rubbish compactors. Rubbish which can't be recycled is used in a power plant to create energy and heat.



Recycling in Milton Keynes

Households in Milton Keynes are encouraged to recycle and compost as much as possible using these bins and boxes:

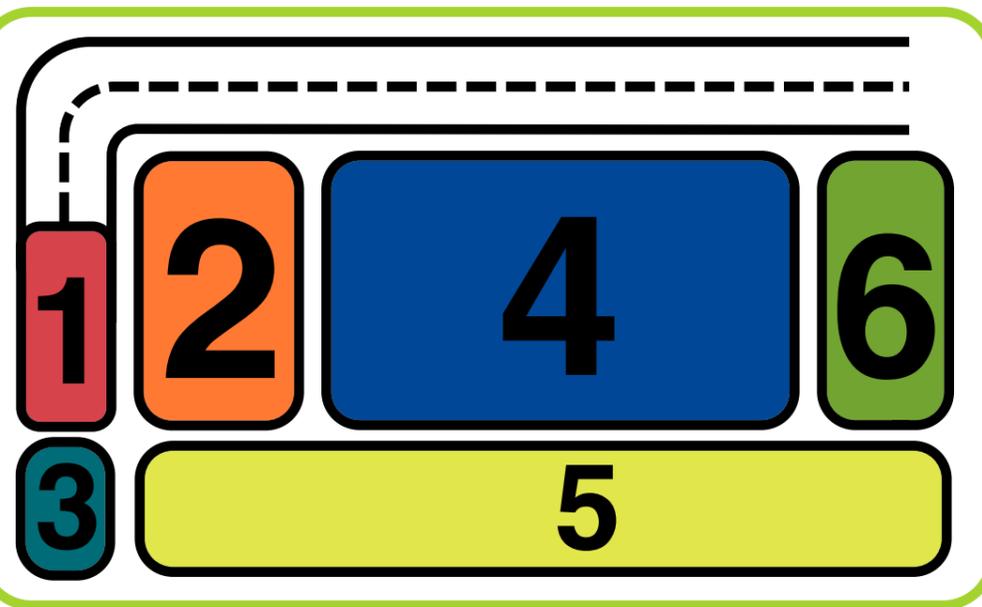
Pink Sacks: paper, cardboard, aluminium cans, steel cans, aerosol cans, aluminium foil, plastic bottles, plastic food containers, juice cartons and textiles

Black Sacks: non-recyclable rubbish

Blue Box: glass bottles and jars

Green Bin: food and garden waste

Yellow Bag: batteries



6 Education Room and Offices

The MRF has a classroom and a viewing gallery where schools and community groups can find out about recycling, enjoy activities and tour the MRF in safety.



5 The Yard

The finished bales are stacked in the yard. Very little space is needed because the recycling is quickly sold to factories. Trucks arrive to collect the recycling and fork-lift trucks drive up ramps to load bales neatly onboard.

