Dear Resident,

We wanted to get in touch to thank you for improving recycling over the past year. This year we’re focusing on encouraging residents to recycle even more and to recycle right. We hope you’ll be able to help us spread this important message in your community, and please get in touch to let us know if we can help too.

On the back of this letter you will find a reminder of what can and can’t be recycled in your brown recycling bins. We know plastic recycling can be confusing. In Manchester the only type of plastic we’d like you to put in your brown bins is anything ’bottle-shaped’ – for example: toiletries bottles, drinks bottles and washing-up liquid bottles.

At the moment we can’t recycle plastic pots and tubs, or any bags, wrappers or packaging made from plastic.

There are important reasons why we can recycle only plastic bottles.

– Manufacturers that turn plastic into recycled products only want high-grade plastic, which is only found in plastic bottles.

– Plastic containers such as yoghurt pots, margarine tubs and food trays are made from lower-grade plastic, which manufacturers can’t use.

– Our sorting machines cannot sort out these different types of plastic. If they are mixed together in the brown bin, they will be melted together during recycling and contaminate the whole batch.

Plastic containers that are not bottle-shaped should be placed in the rubbish bin – this material is incinerated and turned into green energy.

By increasing recycling and recycling right, we can save money, which can then be invested in the other services you tell us you care about.

Thank you for all your help,

Councillor Nigel Murphy
WHAT GOES IN THE BROWN BIN

- Soda bottles
- Washing-up liquid bottles
- Bleach bottles
- Mouthwash bottles
- Sun tan lotion bottles
- Milk bottles
- Nail varnish remover bottles
- Glass bottles and jars
- Food tins
- Foil trays
- Tin foil
- Foil pie dishes
- Aerosols

THINGS WE CAN’T RECYCLE

- Plastic film
- Bottle tops
- Pots and pans
- Margarine tubs
- Yoghurt pots
- Plastic food trays
- Cutlery
- Plastic carrier bags