

Changes to Recycling Collections from 16 May 2019

Frequently Asked Questions

A new contract for kerbside recycling services started on 16 May 2019. The Materials Recycling Facility, where recycling collected from Suffolk's households is sorted, has undergone a major refurbishment, and is now a state-of-the-art facility for Suffolk, with the latest mechanical and optical sorting equipment.

1. What are the changes?

Residents will no longer be able to recycle food and drink cartons (e.g. Tetra Pak) or metal pots, pans and trays via the kerbside collection. You can continue to place the following wide range of materials in your household recycling bin: Paper, card and books, plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, steel and aluminium cans, empty aerosols and clean aluminium foil. [For more information on what you can recycle visit our website.](#)

2. Why can I no longer recycle food and drink cartons(e.g. Tetra Pak) in my kerbside collection?

The new sorting facility is largely mechanical, enabling it to produce better quality recycling and a wider range of plastics. As there is no mechanical way to separate cartons from the other recycled material, it is no longer cost effective to selectively sort by hand. There are also very limited markets for this material, as they are difficult to recycle due to their mixed content.

3. Will my bin be collected if I have food and drink cartons in it?

Your bin may be rejected if it contains cartons. Please collect your cartons for recycling at Recycling Centres from now on or dispose of them in your general rubbish bin.

4. Where can I recycle food and drink cartons(e.g Tetra Pak)?

Cartons(e.g.Tetra Pak) are accepted separately for recycling at all 11 of Suffolk's Recycling Centres. This then removes the need for mechanical or hand sorting.

5. How many cartons/ Tetra Paks are collected for recycling via the kerbside recycling collection?

Last year around 400 tonnes of cartons were collected via the recycling bins, representing less than 1% of the total material collected.

6. Why can't I recycle metal pots, pans and trays in my kerbside recycling?

Pots, pans and trays can cause blockages at the sorting facility and accepting these materials leads to other metal items ending up in the recycling bin such as brake discs, coat hangers and even engine blocks, which can cause further problems.

7. Where can I recycle metal pots, pans and trays?

Metal pots, pans and trays can be recycled in the metal container at any of Suffolk's 11 Recycling Centres.