



In partnership with



What happens to my recycling?

When you place a recyclable item in the bin it is collected by Veolia, our recycling and waste contractor, and transported to a sorting facility where it will be processed and separated into similar items. Each item is then sent to other facilities equipped to reprocess that specific material.

Veolia's practices meet and exceed the legal requirements for recycling. Their dedicated team audits, visits and rigorously monitors all outlets for recycling commodities to ensure the highest standards are met. Veolia also works closely with the Environment Agency to reduce waste crime, ensuring that every step of the recycling chain is accountable and efficient. You can be sure that when you recycle, it will go to the right place.

For specific end destinations, please see the table below, as locations change depending on markets. The information below is a snapshot of destinations from January to September 2024. Veolia only exports recycling abroad when we do not have the capacity or available facilities in the UK.

Exporting waste is not always a bad thing. It is certainly not acceptable if it doesn't go to the right location to get value back, but Veolia ensures that export entails a valuable material going to a location that makes the most of it. For example, the UK imports a large proportion of its food, and therefore we need to send some plastic pellets to the people packaging that food. Export is part of the global economy: **Veolia's job is to make sure it's done correctly and invest in UK infrastructure where it makes sense.**





Collection stream	Materials	Sorting Facility stage one	Processing stage two
Plastic, glass, cans, tins recycling	PET Bottles	Rainham	Various locations in the UK including Bristol and Milton Keynes - 68.74% Spain - 31.26%
	HDPE Bottles		Various locations in the UK including Barking and Dagenham and Dugannon
	PP Bottles		Various locations in the UK including Bristol and Warwick - 96.45% Netherlands - 3.55%
	Pots, Tubs, Trays and other plastic packaging Bottles		Various locations in the UK including Warwick and Milton Keynes - 83.50% Spain - 15.95% Netherlands - 0.55%
	Steel cans		Various locations in the UK including Lincolnshire, Lewisham and Wolverhampton
	Aluminium cans		Various locations in the UK including Swansea, Cheshire and Warrington
	Glass		Greenwich, UK
Paper and Card Recycling	Paper	Belgium - 97.37 % Kent - 2.63%	
	Card		
Food waste recycling	Food waste recycling	Dagenham, UK	
Green garden waste	Green garden waste	Various locations in the UK including Basingstoke and Rainham	
Supplementary recycling	Batteries	Leeds, UK	Various locations in Europe
	Small Electrical items	Lewes, UK	Various locations in Europe
	Clothes and Textiles	Bromley, UK	
Non-recyclable refuse	Non-recyclable refuse	London, UK	



What happens to my **recycling and waste**?

