

Litter Education Pack

Key Stage 2
Ages 7-11

**clean
cornwall**

This free resource was produced by Clean Cornwall. Visit us at www.cleancornwall.org

INTRODUCTION

For Teachers

This free educational resource was produced by Clean Cornwall. This education pack will provide information and test knowledge on the following topics:

- General litter and waste
- The effects of litter
- Recycling and composting
- Types of plastic waste

This resource is designed for Key Stage 2, ages 7-11.

You will need scissors and glue to complete this worksheet.

ACTIVITY GUIDE:

Activity 1 - What is Litter Worksheet

1) Allow students to read the first sheet. Proceed to the true or false section. You can either complete as a class or individually.

2) Open the “Dealing with Rubbish” video on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSIVXZrWMK4>

Students can fill out the blanks as the video is played.

Activity 2 - Recycling Challenge

For this activity you will need:

- Print outs of the Cornwall Council’s recycling guides: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling-and-waste/recycling/find-out-what-goes-in-each-recycling-container/> (also found in this booklet)

Scissors

Activity 4 - Litter Recorder

Students can fill out this sheet on a walk - identifying and counting litter.



ANSWER SHEET

True or False

True, True, False, False, True, False, False

Word Fill

Population, Landfill sites, Organic, Plastic, Decompose, Chemicals, Food chains, Humans, Release

The Four Rs

1 - Reuse

2 - Reduce

3 - Recycle

4 - Rethink

Categories of waste

Any 4 of the following - or any correct answer:

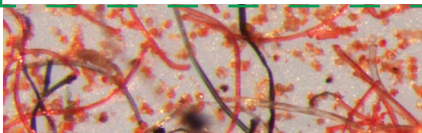
- Food waste
- Metals
- Wood
- Plastic
- Paper & Card
- Glass
- Non-recyclables / General waste
- General waste

Recycling Challenge

- In general waste: Crisp packet, sweets wrapper
- In compost: Egg shells, apple core, orange peel, compostable cup
- In metal and plastic: Plastic bottle, tin can, plastic tray, milk jug
- In glass: Bottle
- In paper: Magazine
- In card: Cardboard box, egg carton

Label the plastic

Microplastic Fibers



A type of microplastic released when we wash clothing made from plastic such as polyester and acrylic

Microplastics



Extremely small pieces of plastic debris in the environment resulting from the disposal and breakdown of plastic waste. They release toxic chemicals over time.

Plastics



A group of materials, either synthetic or naturally occurring, that may be shaped when soft and then hardened to retain the given shape.

Nurdles



Small pellets of plastic which serve as raw material in the manufacture of plastic products. Seabirds and marine animals often mistake these for food and eat them.

CONTENTS

1 - What Is Litter Worksheet

2 - The Recycling Challenge

3 - Types of plastic waste

4 - Litter Recorder

5 - Recycling Info Sheets



WHAT IS LITTER WORKSHEET

More than two million pieces of litter are dropped in the UK every day. In a survey carried out for Keep Britain Tidy by YouGov more than one in four people (27%) admitted to ‘carefully’ littering. This number has continued to rise since 2015 with more and more litter being dropped on our streets, beaches, parks and towns every year.

Why is litter such a big problem?

Litter has a seriously negative effect on wildlife. In 2019, The RSPCA was called to 579 animal incidents involving rubbish. A survey from Surfers Against Sewage also suggested that one million sea birds are killed through the impacts of litter every year in the UK.



Can litter really be that bad? True or False

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| Crime is more likely in areas with more litter. | T F |
| Litter can lead to forest fires. | T F |
| Most litter will disappear within 10 years. | T F |
| It's not a crime to drop litter | T F |
| Your school can get fined for litter. | T F |
| Dog poo is not litter. | T F |
| There is no litter in Cornwall. | T F |

WHAT IS LITTER WORKSHEET

Watch the video “Dealing with Rubbish” and fill in the gaps using the words below

decompose - sites - food - chemicals - plastic - landfill - chains - humans - release - organic - population

Humans are creating a massive amount of waste, more and more each year as our increases. are filling up fast, and discarded litter is becoming an increasing problem all over the world . Some litter is waste, such as food. This type of waste breaks down easily into useful nutrients. The main problem is . It doesn't fully into anything useful, but instead breaks down into smaller particles that can release toxic . These can end up in our natural and can cause serious health problems for , plants and animals. That is why it is so important to pick up your litter - so that it can't toxins into our ecosystems.

There are 4 Rs that we can use to help us to remember to create less waste and protect our planet. These are the four Rs (not in order):

- 1 Make new things from old rubbish
- 2 Cut down the quantity of waste you create
- 3 Separate waste into different categories so that it can be made into something new
- 4 Be more thoughtful about what you buy and throw away

There are lots of different categories of waste that should be separated such as:

1

2

3

4

THE RECYCLING CHALLENGE

See it? Sort it!

Cut out and sort the litter into the correct categories.

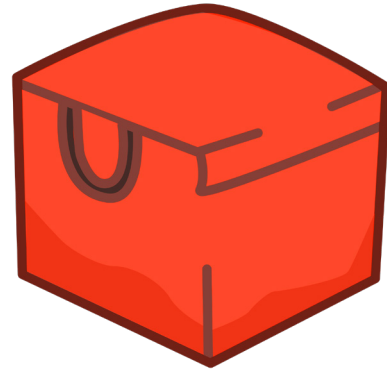




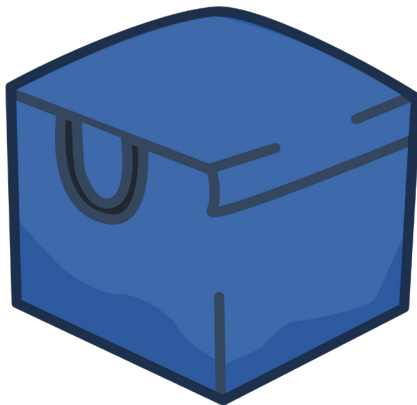
COMPOST



METAL AND PLASTIC



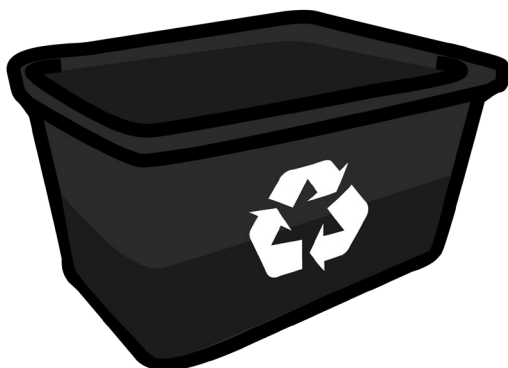
PAPER



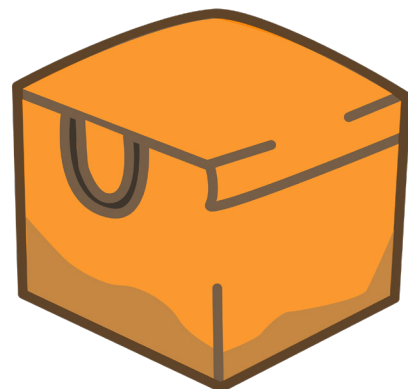
GENERAL WASTE



GLASS



CARD



TYPES OF PLASTIC WASTE

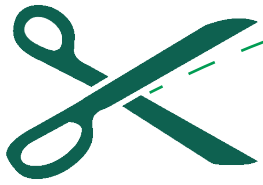
Read about the types of plastic waste. Cut out the pictures, labels and descriptions on the next page and match them correctly

| | |
|---------|-------------|
| PICTURE | NAME |
| | DESCRIPTION |

| | |
|---------|-------------|
| PICTURE | NAME |
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Microplastics

Plastics

Nurdles

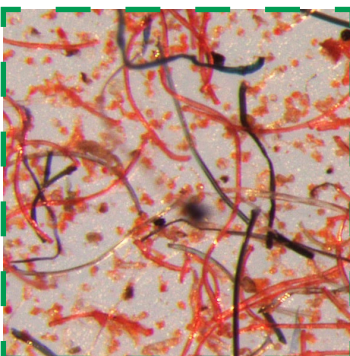
Microplastic Fibers

A group of materials, either synthetic or naturally occurring, that may be shaped when soft and then hardened to retain the given shape.

A type of microplastic released when we wash clothing made from plastic such as polyester and acrylic.

Extremely small pieces of plastic debris in the environment resulting from the disposal and breakdown of plastic waste. They release toxic chemicals over time.

Small pellets of plastic which serve as raw material in the manufacture of plastic products. Seabirds and marine animals often mistake these for food and eat them.



TYPES OF PLASTIC WASTE

What are plastics?

Plastics are a group of materials typically defined by their ability to be shaped when heated, retaining that shape when cooled. Plastics can be either synthetic (man-made) or made from natural materials.



Microplastics

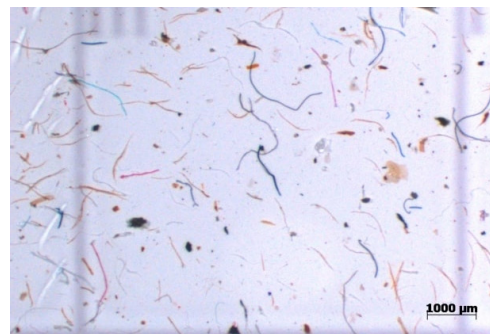
When plastic breaks down, it can turn into a number of different materials depending on the type of plastic, and the wear and tear it comes into contact with. **Microplastics** are created when plastic breaks down into extremely small pieces, 5 millimeters long or smaller. Microplastic can look different depending on their size. Smaller microplastics can look like grains of sand, and the smallest microplastics are not visible to the human eye. Microplastics release toxic chemicals into our environment over time as they continue to break down.

Are there different types of microplastic?

There are many different types of microplastic. For example, clothes are often made from synthetic fibers such as polyester - which is a type of plastic. When polyester breaks down, it splits into extremely small pieces known as **microplastic fibers**. These fibers are released every time the fabric is under stress, such as when you wash your clothes.



Polyester Fabric



Microplastic fibers under a microscope

Other types of microplastic?

Nurdles are another type of microplastic.

Millions of products are made from plastic every year. In factories, they often use small pellets of plastic known as **nurdles**. Nurdles are melted down during manufacture to be shaped into something new. The main downside to using these pellets is that they often end up in our oceans when being transported by ships. They are incredibly hard to spot and even harder to clean up. Marine animals such as seabirds and fish often mistake nurdles for food which can make them seriously ill.

Below, you can see how similar nurdles can look to fish eggs. It creates a deadly game of spot the difference for our marine wildlife.



Nurdles washed up on a beach



Fish eggs

LITTER RECORDER

Take part in a 30 minute litter pick and record the types of litter you spot!



What is the most common type of litter in your area?

| Date | Type of litter | Number of pieces of litter | Location | Recyclable? |
|------|----------------|----------------------------|----------|-------------|
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Thank You For Completing The Clean Cornwall Litter Education Pack!

You can access more free educational resources at:
www.cleancornwall.org/resources

Want to arrange an interactive session with us? We can provide in-person, interactive learning sessions for your school! Get in touch at clean.cornwall@cornwallrcc.org.uk.

RECYCLING INFO SHEET

Cornwall Council's recycling guide

Orange bag - Cardboard

- Brown, white and grey cardboard
- Brown paper
- Coloured paper
- Wrapping paper (not shiny)
- Greetings cards
- Remove all staples, sticky tape and plastic bags.
- If you have extra cardboard, please flat pack it, tie it up with string and put it out beside your recycling.

It is not yet possible to put cartons and paper cups into your orange bag to be recycled.

Red bag - Household metal and plastics

- Drinks cans
- Food tins
- Aerosols
- Clean aluminium foil
- Plastic bottles
- Plastic pots, tubs and trays
- Please remember to rinse and squash any dirty cans or tins, plastic pots, tubs and trays before recycling them. Bottles should be washed, squashed and lids back on.

Blue bag - paper

- newspapers
- magazines
- BT and Thompson phone directories
- Yellow Pages
- catalogues
- brochures
- junk mail
- white office paper
- white envelopes (including window envelopes)
- Shredded paper - Put it in a plastic bag and tie it up.

Black box - glass bottles, jars and textiles

Glass bottles and jars

No broken glass, please. If you have broken glass, put it in a rigid plastic box like an ice cream container, mark it clearly as 'broken glass' and put it out with your household rubbish.

Register a litter pick with us!

Scan the QR Code or visit www.cleancornwall.org to access our litter pick registration form.

This form is useful for:

- Borrowing equipment
- Arranging liability insurance
- Recruiting and advertising for your litter pick
- Litter collection

Once you have completed the litter pick you can upload your statistics to help us learn more about litter in Cornwall:

<https://www.cleancornwall.org/record-statistics>

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