

Household waste

Almost everything we do creates waste. From leftover food and broken belongings to packaging and old clothes, we often throw away things that could be mended or reused. If we recycle trash instead, it will be made into something new. However, many things can't be recycled.

More than **200 billion** aluminum cans are used every year.....

Metal

Metal is found in everything from kettles to cans. Steel and aluminum are the most common household metals. These should be recycled.

Finland recycles around **90%** of its glass.....

Glass

Unbroken glass bottles and jars are easy to reuse at home. They can store food and drink. Glass can be recycled over and over again into new items.

Less than **5%** of shoes are recycled.....



Some places around the world are trying to create zero, or no, waste. Keep reading this book to see how you can create less waste!

Around **24 million** slices of bread are thrown away from UK households every day!

Each year, most US households throw away **13,000** pieces of paper.

Food and garden
Huge amounts of food are wasted worldwide. Garden waste, such as plant cuttings, also gets thrown away.

91% of all plastic ever created has not been recycled.

Did we always throw away this much?

In the past, people created much less waste. It was only in the 20th century that we first began to throw away so much. So what changed?



1900

Things were often expensive or homemade. Old items were reused or fixed. Only things that were beyond repair were thrown away.



1950

Plastic packaging had not yet been invented so cardboard was used instead. Most electrical items were expensive and rarely thrown away.



Present day

Many things are wrapped in plastic packaging. It is cheap to make clothing and electronics, so we buy more than ever and throw lots away.