

Metal recycling facts

Food and drink cans

- The average household uses 600 food cans and 380 drinks cans each year – each one is 100% recyclable, over and over again into any type of metal product: from a paper clip to a car engine component, an iron to a washing machine – or another food or drinks can!

Aerosols

- 580 million aerosols are used in the UK every year.
 - Over half are used in 'personal care' products, e.g. deodorant, body sprays, hair and shaving products.
- The average household uses 27 aerosols each year.
 - That's 10 per person per year.

Foil trays

- An estimated 16,000 tonnes of foil trays are used each year.
- The average household uses 182 foil trays each year

Household Foil

- Average UK foil consumption per household is 12 metres per month
- Every year 57 million packs of household foil are bought in the UK
- Britain uses over 425,000 miles of household foil every year - that'll take you around the world 17 times!
- Annually, UK consumers buy enough foil to wrap over 29 million chickens

Aluminium and steel recycling

- Recycling a tonne of steel saves 1.5 tonnes of iron ore and reduces CO2 emissions by 80%, compared to making the metal from raw materials.
- Recycling a tonne of aluminium saves 9 tonnes of CO2 emissions and 4 tonnes of bauxite – the raw material from which aluminium is made.
- Aluminium and steel can be endlessly recycled, without losing quality. It can take as little as six weeks for a drink can to be recycled, and back on the supermarket shelf as another can.

Saving energy, cutting greenhouse gas emissions and natural resources

- Recycling a tonne of steel saves 1.5 tonnes of iron ore and reduces CO2 emissions by 80%.

- Recycling a tonne of aluminium saves 9 tonnes of CO2 emissions and 4 tonnes of bauxite – the raw material from which aluminium is made.
- Recycling cans saves up to 95% of the energy it takes to make both aluminium and steel from raw materials.
- Making aluminum cans from recycled metal is 20 times more energy efficient than using 'primary' metal.
- Recycling seven cans saves enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for 26 hours.
- Each household uses approximately 600 food tins 380 drink cans per year. Recycling one can saves enough energy to power a computer for one hour or power a television for 3 hours.

Source: Metal Matters (www.metalmatters.org.uk)