

Is recycling rubbish?



Using the information below evaluate the effectiveness of recycling in the UK.

40% of Europe’s plastics are used once and then thrown away.	Only 22% of households can recycle black plastic.
There are 39 different recycling schemes in the UK.	Only 18% of households in the UK have access to recycling for carrier bags.
Only 74% of household can recycle yoghurt pots.	You must wash or rinse all plastic items before you put them in the recycling.
It has been estimated that nearly 5 billion plastic straws are thrown away in England each year.	Approximately 13 billion plastic bottles are used each year in the UK, that’s nearly 200 per person.
Only 57% of plastic bottles are recycled in the UK, which means that 15 million plastic bottles are still sent to landfill, incinerated or littered every day.	It is not ok to make a mistake and put something wrong in the recycling bin, contamination is one reason why items cannot be recycled.

Consider the positives and negatives of recycling in the UK and suggest what could be improved.

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