



Bottle Top Recycling - Plastic

Milk bottle tops were our first ever recycling scheme. Introduced back in 2006, it became extremely popular and **very contaminated** very quickly. The scheme was expanded to include **ALL** lids made from HDPE & LDPE indicated by the numbers 2 and 4. Unfortunately **contamination worsened** significantly and soon collections included plastic lids from jars, margarine tubs, cream cheese tubs, ice cream, etc and even metal lids. To maximise recycling, **countless hours** were spend sorting the lids by hand.

In November 2019, Brighton & Hove City Council announced a change to their **plastic** bottle recycling scheme. **Here's what to do with your lids now:**

- **MILK BOTTLE TOPS** [plastic] – wash & squash your plastic milk bottle & put the **LID INSIDE**. Include in your council recycling. Lids go inside as the thread is weak, and they fly off easily when being baled.
- **OTHER BOTTLE TOPS** [from plastic bottles] – wash & squash your plastic bottle and put the **LID BACK ON**. Include in your council recycling.
- **LIDS OFF TETRA PAKS** [cartons] – after washing and squashing the carton **REPLACE THE LID** and deposit in one of the dedicated carton recycling bins in the city. It's particularly important to flatten the carton as it means more can fit on the lorry to be transported to ACE UK in Warrington.
- **ALL OTHER PLASTIC LIDS** – this includes plastic lids from glass bottles, glass jars, tubs, pots, etc to be included in **GENERAL WASTE**. If you have an account with Magpie, you could ask if they will accept them.

What to do with the bottle tops you have already collected

Our collection has now ended, and we are unable to accept any more lids. We have been working on ending the scheme since January 2020 and shared this process through our Facebook page. We did 3 final collections in May, June and July 2021 which was advertised through our website and our Facebook page.

We can only get a collection of bottle tops when we have a minimum of 10 sacks. If we continue to collect a carrier bag here and a carrier bag there, we may well be storing bottle tops for months and months before we have enough for a collection and we simply don't have the space.

So, what can you do?

- **MILK BOTTLE TOPS** – there are no other organisations who work directly with GHS Recycling in Brighton and Hove. The nearest collection points are Worthing & Eastbourne.

When processing your current milk bottle tops for the Council, you could add 2 or 3 more milk bottle tops at a time to your milk bottles. Please don't add more than that.

- **OTHER BOTTLE TOPS / TETRA PAK TOPS** – if you have a back stock of these your options are **very limited:**
 - If you have a Magpie Recycling account, you could enquire if they can accept your back stock
 - If not, then please include them in your general waste. They will be incinerated in Newhaven and provide energy for the local community.