



Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe

Swansea University

Waste Management Guidance Note WMGN04 Food Tins and Cans

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Waste Management Guidance Note WMGN04 Food Tins and Cans	
Location Generated	All areas
EWC	20-01-04
Type	Controlled Waste Non-Hazardous
Disposal Method	Segregated for recycling
Bin/ Bag Type	Quad bin / Clear Bag

Duty of Care Requirements

Any business or public body that generates waste materials should apply the waste hierarchy to all streams in order to minimise the amount of waste sent for disposal. In practice, this means ensuring all wastes are segregated at source and disposed of via the correct stream.

The University has committed to segregating its waste at source and focusing on separating key recycling streams; cans, paper, plastics, food and glass. Segregation at source improves recycling quality and also adheres to the Waste Regulations (England and Wales) 2011. The Regulations stipulate that materials such as paper, metal, plastic and glass must be collected separately if it is necessary to encourage high quality of the recycling of the material.

Most food tins and drinks cans are made of highly recyclable aluminium or steel. Recycling an aluminium can saves 96% of the energy used to make a can from ore and produces 95% less air pollution and 97% less water pollution. Aluminium can be recycled time and time again without loss of properties. Steel can also be recycled time and time again without loss of quality. Making new steel products from recycled steel instead of virgin ore reduces water use by 40%, water pollution by 76%, air pollution by 86%, and mining wastes by 97%.

Though classified as non-hazardous it is a legal requirement under the Hazardous Waste Regulations to segregate hazardous wastes from non-hazardous wastes and to ensure that all wastes are correctly classified. Incorrectly disposing of hazardous waste via the general municipal waste stream can lead to legal and financial penalties dependent upon the severity of the noncompliance.

Items

Food tins and cans should be deposited only in the defined can recycling bins (typically part of the University's standard "waste quads/duos")

Under **no** circumstances should

- (a) any food tins and drinks cans be deposited in the general waste bin – it diverts valuable material from being recovered or recycled and options are available
- (b) Where possible food cans should be rinsed to reduce the amount of residue deposited into the recycling bin.

Disposal Instructions

Internal Bins

Only metal, top-opening quads/duos with clear bin bags are to be used for can recycling disposal. No personal/under-desk containers should be in used in offices as it deters from recycling materials.



Figure 1 – Swansea University indoor “quad” bins

External Bins

Only metal, front-opening quads/duos are to be used for can recycling disposal. No other bins are to be used for loose items.



Figure 2 – Swansea University external “quad” bins and external contractor bin

Collected clear bin bags will be deposited into the larger-dedicated bins (provided by the waste management contractor), which are located in compounds across the University's estates.

Disposal Cost

The disposal cost is factored into the University's waste management service provision; therefore there is no direct cost to individuals/Faculties/PSUs.

Labelling

See template

For further guidance please contact Estates-Waste@Swansea.ac.uk



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