

A lot of the plastic we find at home is called 'single-use'. That means it can only be used once. Food wrappers or shampoo bottles are two good examples. This makes it different to other household plastics – like the TV, or remote control, which are used again and again and don't need to be replaced for a long time.

LET'S GET STARTED!



Look at all the different types of plastic being used in your kitchen. Sort them into (1) single-use items that will end up in landfill (the rubbish dump), (2) the ones you can recycle and (3) the ones you can reuse. You can write down your findings on the worksheet.

here are some clues on what to look out for!

single-use plastics going to landfill

eg meat tray, yogurt po, crisp wrapper

recyclable single-use plastics

eg milk bottle, soda bottle, plastic bag

reusable plastic

eg tupperware box drinks bottle, scales Grab a calculator to work out what percentage of your plastic waste is recycled. Add up the total number of plastic items you put in your recycling bin in one day and divide that figure by the total number of single-use plastic waste you create in one day. Then, multiply by 100 to give you a percentage.



plastic items in your recycling bin waste you create

single-use plastic

multiply by 100



quick questions

how many of your single-use plastic items do you recycle?

how many plastic items end up in your general waste bin each day?

can you work out the percentage of household plastic you recycle and see how it compares to the rest of the UK (45%)

let's talk plastic

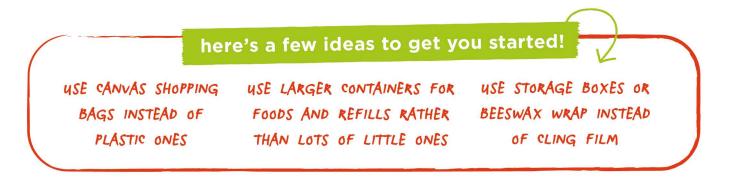
Once you've finished, talk about what you could do as a family to reduce or recycle - the amount of plastic you use at home.

As a family, are you remembering to recycle as much as you can?

Which plastics can - and can't - be recycled where you live? (Check out the local council rules for what will be collected.)

Are there any recycling schemes run by supermarkets or community **centres?** (Sometimes they will take harder to recycle items.)

Can you reduce the amount of plastic you use?



I-SPY PLASTIC

Use this worksheet to complete your survey. Happy hunting!

	reusable plastic	single-use plastics	single-use plastics going to landfill	
example items found in the kitchen	TUPPERWÂRE BOX DRINKS BOTTLE	MILK BOTTLE PLASTIC BAG SODA BOTTLE	MEAT TRAY Yogurt Pot Sweet wrapper	
how many items in total?				
	n of plastic eated in a day			
length of plastic waste created in a week				
	n of plastic ated in a year			

EXTRA STUFF TO DO! (OPTIONAL)

At the end of one day, lay out all the plastic waste items you can find next to each other and, using a ruler or tape measure, the length of space they cover.

You've probably used over 1 metre of waste (around 5-7 items). That means in just one week your waste would be higher than the world's tallest giraffe (5.8m)!

Over a year, just your kitchen will have created enough plastic waste to reach higher than the Eiffel Tower and the Shard building in London!

leaning tower, pisa	big ben, Iondon	pyramids, egypt	the shard, Iondon	eiffel tower, paris	empire state, new york	burj khalifa, dubai
57m	96m	139m	320m	324m	443m	828m
notes:						