



Buyers of Plastic Scrap

A guide for waste transfer stations and recycling facilities:

- Diverting rigid plastic material from landfill
 - Selling rigid plastic bales

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Contact Us on 0845 366 9306 or visit
www.plasticexpert.co.uk

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Introduction

Rigid plastics have been a problematic material to recycle in the UK since China erected its 'Green Fence'. Prior to this, most countries across the world had been producing low grade baled plastics in the hope that China will take on further sorting activities and end processing. There has been a realisation by China that a minimum of 25% of these imported plastics were only fit for landfill.

The Green Fence agreement, which was due to be removed in November 2013, shows no sign that China will ever again start importing low grade plastic waste. In fact, reports from officials within China Certification & Inspection Co Ltd have stated that heightened inspections of imported waste will continue indefinitely.

Plastic Expert's dedicated account managers are helping companies across the UK cut their landfill costs whilst maximising the value from recycling rigid plastics. This is being done through mutual business relationships with companies in providing education for the sorting and baling of rigid plastic material.

Our commitment is to keep you updated on how to cost effectively divert rigid plastic from landfill. In return, we seek ongoing supplies on scrap plastic material.

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Sustainable routes for recycling

Plastic Expert utilises two separate routes for recycling mixed rigid plastics within The EU, and South-East Asia. Both destinations are not governed by the Green Fence agreement, however there are other reasons why they will be sustainable for the foreseeable future and should be a utilised export option.

PVC recycling is also on the up, with 444,468 tonnes recycled last year, low grade material still commands a very low rebate when separated from other mixed rigid plastics.

The EU are due to conclude a mass review of its waste legislation, including combatting the large proportion of plastic waste going to land fill. This review is set to be finalised later this year.

Plastics going to Countries in South-East Asia, benefit from higher utilisation rates due to low income averages. A substantial percentage of mixed plastics being traded through these routes will evidentially be further sorted at specialist facilities in order to gain maximum value. China still possesses the most plastic factories dedicated to end-of-life processing therefore until the UK adapts it's processing and sorting, most plastics will still be recycled into new products there.

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Making Rigid Plastic Bales

Picking out rigid plastic material that can be re-sorted at a plastics recycling facility is absolutely imperative. Whilst it's absolutely fine to make a mixed rigid bale, the material must be of a certain standard.

A number of factors impact the value of mixed rigid plastic bales which include:

- Cleanliness of material (level of mud/dirt etc.)
 - Size of pieces
- Percentage of HDPE/PP material (this material typically attracts a higher rebate)
 - Bale and overall loading weights
- Market rates and transportation costs

The following pages show VERY SIMPLY which materials should be baled. We also show which materials SHOULD NOT be baled.

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Mixed Rigid Plastic Recycling

DO NOT BALE:



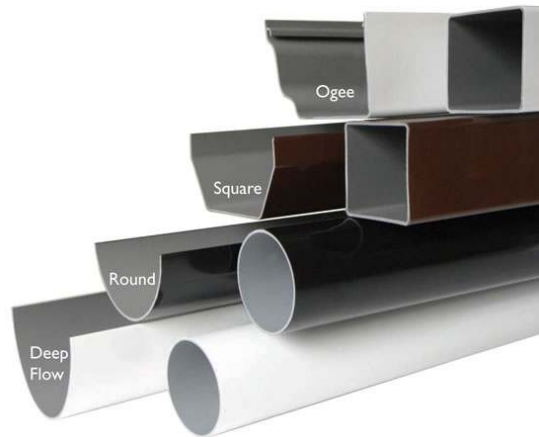
Soft plastic e.g LDPE film



Plastic Bottles



PVC – guttering, downpipe, window frames etc



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Mixed Rigid Plastic Recycling

DO NOT BALE:



Containers with liquid residue or other contamination **e.g. paint, concrete** etc

Mastic tubes and other **hazardous waste items**



Please also ensure:

- NO small broken off pieces (size should be larger than 30cm)
- NO heavily soiled material
- NO metal or non plastic waste

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Mixed Rigid Plastic Recycling

YES!! DO BALE:

Construction pipe – All colours shapes and sizes



**Domestic and wheelie bins
(remove metal wheels)**



Road barriers and cones – remove rubber feet!



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Mixed Rigid Plastic Recycling

YES!! DO BALE:

Boxes, crates, buckets and containers



Garden Furniture, Water Butts and Recycling Boxes



**PLUS: Automotive Plastics and other LARGE
COLOURFUL PIECES**

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Mixed Rigid Plastic Recycling Examples of qualities

Lower grade mixed rigids"

Some pieces are
harder to indentify,
small bits of
contamination



These bales are a good example of the lowest grade mixed rigids, any material of a worse quality would be almost impossible to recycling through rigid plastic sorting technology.



The bales are quite muddy and stored where vehicles spray dirty water on to the material.

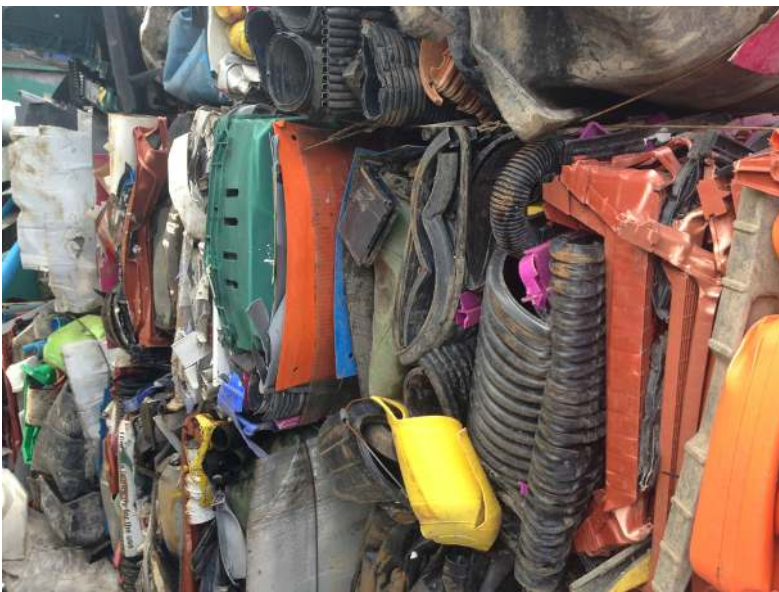


Mixed Rigid Plastic Recycling Examples of qualities

Medium/Good Grade:
Good size pieces which
are bright in colour and
easy to indentify.



These bales are a good example of medium/good mixed rigids,
this material attracts a higher price than the low grade rigid bales



The bales are
reasonably clean and
well structured.

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Mixed Rigid Plastic Recycling Examples of qualities

Good/Higher Grade:

Good size pieces which
are bright in colour and
easy to indentify.
Almost all HDPE plastic.



These bales are a good example of higher grade mixed rigids, this material attracts the highest price.



The bales are very
clean and well
structured. Material
is stored in a
segregated area.

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So what's next?

If you're deciding to start baling rigid plastic material this guide should tell you everything you need to know. Whilst we're happy to help and guide new suppliers, we do this at our cost. In return we seek the supply of material which has been baled.

You'll be appointed a dedicated account manager who will discuss pricing and payment terms. Fast payment terms can be arranged, call us on 0845 366 9306 to discuss.

Some other bits of useful information:

- Rigid Bales are typically 300-400 kgs in weight
- Collection can be made using a curtain sider vehicle
 - Full consignments weigh around 14 tonnes
- For certain grades of material, shipping containers can be loaded directly from the suppliers site
- Bales shouldn't be stored on mud, ideally they should in stored in a dry area e.g. a concrete pad. If this isn't possible then pallets can be used for stacking.

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