



CONSUMER INFORMATION PACKAGING WASTE RECYCLING

Introduction

Maxwells Restaurants (1994) Ltd is obligated under the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations. The Regulations require registered retailers to provide information to their customers on the environmental impact and recycling of packaging. The following information should help you to understand why packaging recycling benefits the environment and what you can do to recycle your waste packaging.

What are the Packaging Regulations?

The Packaging Waste Regulations were introduced into the UK in 1997. They require companies which meet certain criteria to take responsibility for the recycling of a proportion of packaging they generate. As Maxwell's Restaurants (1994) Ltd is an obligated company and is registered with the Environment Agency, we submit necessary data and at the end of the year demonstrate that we have taken responsibility for recycling a certain amount of packaging that relates to government targets.

What are the issues for packaging?

Packaging is an essential part of the supply process and ensures that products are delivered safely, undamaged and with an optimum life. Companies spend millions of pounds developing new ways of packaging to enhance product life and to reduce the amount of packaging used. Where possible we try to encourage our suppliers to reduce the amount of packaging and similarly reduce the amount of packaging we produce.

What is the problem with waste packaging?

The UK uses around 10.5m tones of packaging a year. If this is landfilled, it both loses useful resources and creates potential environmental problems for the future. The UK Regulations have been put in place to enable the UK to meet the European Directive targets. However, the government also has a waste strategy in place to reduce the environmental impact of waste by prioritising its disposal through:

- Reduce
- Reuse
- Recycle
- Recover
- Landfill as a last resort

If packaging is disposed of to landfill, it eventually decomposes, producing gas and filling up valuable space that is needed for wastes that have no alternative but landfill. As a disposal option, recycling is considered the best way of creating the maximum environmental benefit for waste packaging.

What can you do?

Recycling Symbols – if you are unsure of what each recycling symbol means, more information can be found here - <https://www.recyclenow.com/recycling-knowledge/packaging-symbols-explained>

There are many options for recycling your packaging waste:

- Facilities are available at all Civic Amenity Waste Sites operated by councils and more information on what sites offer what recycling facilities can be found at www.recyclenow.com. This offers a postcode finder for the nearest facilities.
- Many supermarkets also now offer to take back carrier bags and also have bottle, paper, plastic bottle and can banks in their car parks. These should also be shown on the recyclenow website.

Where can I go for more information?

If you require any further information on Recycling please contact your local council.