



## Description of the Tool

Recycling has become more prominent with consumers over the past ten years. As a result, many people's purchasing decisions are influenced by how easy it is to recycle the associated packaging. In Ireland, glass, paper/cardboard, steel, aluminium and wood are all recyclable. Certain plastics including LDPE, HDPE and PET can also be readily recycled.

Packaging made from one type of material (homogenous) helps the recycling process as it allows for easier collection and sorting. Packaging made from different or combined materials is more difficult to separate and process for recycling.

## Benefits of the Tool

By designing for recycling companies may:

- Make it easier for packaging to be processed for recycling
- Avoid introducing undesirable materials onto the market
- Reduce the amount of packaging waste going to landfill
- Reduce their Producer Responsibility fees
- Increase goodwill from consumers
- Increase compliance with the Packaging Waste legislation



## Possible Challenges

Lighter packaging versus easily recycled packaging. It is hard to have both.

Product requirements (e.g. chocolate bars require a high moisture barrier). Often a metallised layer is required on the plastic wrapper to preserve the life of the product.

Colours or process aids added to packaging materials. For plastics and glass, the clearer the material colour the better. However, some products require additional protection such as tinting, to protect against the effects of UV light. Here, colour must be added to the glass to protect the product.

## Further Information

For further information please visit:

[www.repak.ie](http://www.repak.ie)  
[www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk)

